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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXVI, No. 1

Section 1

January 2, 1940

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

Secretary Wallace asserted, in his annual report, made public yesterday, that "it would be folly to regard the new war as in any way a solution to our farm problem." The war, Mr. Wallace said, will in the long run hurt agriculture more than it will help, hence government control of land use and farm output become more rather than less necessary. "Even should it cause certain prices to rise," he wrote, "so that differentials may for a time not be necessary between prices at home and prices abroad, the need for protecting the home market against the influence of the world market will return with the return of peace."

"Whether or not the pattern of the last war and the postwar period will be repeated we do not know; but we do know that war usually destroys or reduces the purchasing power of belligerent countries. Hence the outbreak of hostilities is not a reason for abandoning our efforts to conserve the soil, to keep our farm output in adjustment with the current and prospective demand and to establish a rural-urban balance on the basis of equitable price relationships. On the contrary, it is a reason for strengthening our machinery to accomplish those ends."

"Such machinery has already demonstrated its usefulness as a means of adjustment to war conditions. After the war, if drastic farm adjustment must again be made, it will be a safeguard against market demoralization. Methods used to adjust farm production downward can be used to adjust it upward should need arise. Methods developed to protect domestic prices and to provide more income from the domestically consumed than from the export proportion of the farm output may be necessary for some crops during the war and for many crops when the war ends..."

FARM PRICE INDEX

The Department of Agriculture has reported that the general level of prices received by farmers on December 15 was 1 point lower than mid-November. Substantially higher prices for grains and cotton were more than offset by lower prices for meat animals and eggs. The all-commodities index declined to 96 per cent of the 1910-14 level, which also was the same figure for December 15, 1938. (Press.)

CIVIL SERVICE

Legislation empowering the President to cover 250,000 more federal employees into the civil service system has been definitely placed on the agenda of Congress, following conferences at the White House and with Congressional leaders, says a report in the Washington Post.

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**Insect
Invasions** Bombing planes and clanking tanks are not the only dangerous things that cross national boundaries when war comes, says a Science Service report. Invaders that stay on and continue their depredations even after human beings have cried quits are part of the hazards of war, Dr. E. R. Sasser of the U.S. Department of Agriculture pointed out in his presidential address before the recent meeting of the American Association of Economic Entomologists. After reviewing the attempts on the part of insects to invade and conquer America in the past, Dr. Sasser called attention to the perils of the present situation:

"There are some who are prone to conclude that the disturbed shipping facilities, which result when wars are in progress, curtail the volume of imports and when such conditions obtain, the risk of importing injurious insects is insignificant. Our experience in the last World War does not support this theory, for during those turbulent days many of the experienced plant quarantine officials, in the countries involved, were called to the colors and their work turned over to less experienced inspectors, resulting in decreased efficiency.

"Furthermore, there is no assurance that a product normally imported from a certain European country will not be imported from another country when wars intervene to disrupt commercial relations. Indeed, it may be noted that the effects of the present war on the sanitary condition of certain types of plant material has already been evident, due perhaps to an effort to dispose of as many plants as possible while shipping conditions permitted."

**Columbia
Basin
Districts** "Returns from an election held recently by Columbia Basin landowners signify the birth of a new empire," says the Washington Farmer (December 21). "The vote, in favor of organizing the two big irrigation districts, to stand alongside of the one already organized, removes the last possible barrier that might have stood in the way of a negotiation of a contract between the Columbia Basin landowners and the Bureau of Reclamation for watering of the lands and repayment of the construction charges...Classification of the lands as to their suitability for irrigation agriculture has been 54 percent completed on more than 1,000,000 acres. Soils, slopes, rock structures and drainage are taken into account, and each tract of land rated as 'best,' 'average,' or 'marginal.'" The land appraisal board is fixing the fair values at which new settlers shall buy the lands. Under Bureau of Reclamation rules, one individual can get water for only 40 acres and a man and wife can own but 80 acres."

**Foreign Trade
Recovery** The volume of United States merchandise exports in the first 11 months of 1939 was slightly higher than in the corresponding period of 1938, with shipments in November \$40,000,000 less than those in October, the Commerce Department has reported. For the 11 months, imports for consumption were up about 14 percent over the 1938 period, and rose in November to \$214,454,000, compared with \$171,668,000 in November 1938. (Press.)

Federal Aid for Poultry Generally speaking most people usually associate government poultry activities with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, not realizing that there are eight other federal agencies working directly with various phases of the poultry industry. In order fully to acquaint people with the extent and various types of poultry work carried on by the government, a 72-page bulletin entitled, "How the Government Aids the Poultry Industry," was prepared for distribution at the recent World's Poultry Congress. This bulletin is illustrated with over 90 cuts showing the type of work carried on and the various phases of the industry concerned. Those interested may obtain a copy of this publication without cost by addressing the Poultry Section, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D.C. (American Poultry Journal, January.)

Navel Orange Bud Sports "From what is known of the genetics of bud variations, there is reason to assume that a strain of the navel orange with a tendency for heavier annual yield than that of the parent Washington navel may be found among the millions of trees in the Southwest," say A. D. Shamel and C. S. Pomeroy, of the Department (Riverside, Calif.) in the California Citrograph (January). "Such a bud variation will be much more difficult to detect than those affecting size of shape of fruit, for instance, since frequently variations in yield between trees are due to differences in cultural or soil conditions. The writers will appreciate a continuation of the cooperation which growers have given so widely in the search for bud variations that may be of possible value..."

Double Tires for Tractors "Within the last year the question of using dual pneumatic tires instead of single tires on tractors has been investigated, the idea being to increase the traction," says an editorial in the Farmers Guide. "Tests have shown there are advantages, especially in muck soils, but the cost proved to be almost double. In order to learn more about this matter, tests were made on a Michigan farm to compare two small duals with a single pneumatic of regulation size. The tests were made on three types of soil--silty loam, sand and muck, timothy sod, oat stubble, mint stubble, plowed and rolled ground, freshly plowed and disked ground and freshly plowed ground. It was found from these tests that traction, expressed in pounds pull on the tractor drawbar, was greater for the single than for the double pneumatics for the same percentage of slippage for all soils and conditions tested...Probably further investigations along this line will be made. With higher speeds being built into farm tractors, more tractive power will increase their usefulness."

Elected F. W. Reichelderfer, of Washington, Chief of the U.S. Weather Bureau, was recently elected president of the American Meteorological Society. (A.P.)

Conservation of Moisture "While parts of the Southwest have been relieved with top soil moisture and even a small amount of stock water, no relief has been felt in large areas where the shortage of stock water is acute and where the water table is the lowest ever known," says an editorial in the Farmer-Stockman. "Average rains between now and planting time will at best give us only a thin layer of top soil moisture. With only average rains it becomes highly important that every possible drop of moisture be held in the soil...Every possible acre of land should be prepared this winter as a means of holding any rain that falls and also as a means of avoiding ventilating the top soil by plowing or listing during a period of drying winds. It is time to remember all we have ever learned about how to handle soil to hold the moisture in it against the possibility that we may have to depend for crops another year on a limited supply of top soil moisture."

Cellulose from Pine vs. Cotton Henry Bull, Southern Forest Experiment Station, in American Cotton Grower (December) says that recent studies in Arkansas afford the basis for comparison of pine trees and cotton, two of the South's most important crops, as a source of cellulose. "The studies," he says, "were made on identical soil types and were classed as only moderately productive for cotton, yielding about 145 pounds of lint cotton per acre. A study of forest growth on the same soil types showed that loblolly pine growing on them reached an average total height of 90 feet at 50 years of age. A fully stocked stand of loblolly pine on the same soils produces about 1.54 rough cords of pulpwood per acre per year. Converted into pounds of cellulose (considering dry pine wood to be 45 percent usable cellulose) this yield is equivalent to about 1,627 pounds per acre per year, or about 11 times the yield of lint cotton. This conclusion is based on fully stocked stands of pine growing at a maximum rate for these soils, and on actual average yields of lint cotton over a period of years, on moderately productive soils...It is realized, of course, that cotton cellulose and pine cellulose have different qualities, uses and values..."

Tick Fever Vaccine A new vaccine for protection against a new and possibly widespread feverish ailment spread by ticks is ready for its first trials on human volunteers, the U. S. Public Health Service announces. The new vaccine, successful in guinea pig trials, was prepared by Dr. Herald E. Cox and E. John Bell, of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory of the National Institute of Health at Hamilton, Mont. The new disease has been named *Rickettsia diaporica*. It is very similar to, if not the same as, the "Q" fever of Australia. The germs of another ailment, relapsing fever, have been discovered in a tick by the name of *Ornithodoros hermsi*, by another of the Rocky Mountain laboratory staff, Gordon E. Davis. Mr. Davis states that this species of tick is undoubtedly a local agent for transmission of relapsing fever in Colorado. (Science Service.)

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 2

Section 1

January 3, 1940.

WAR AFFECTS EXPORTS

The Agriculture Department, in a "progress report" on American farm exports since outbreak of the European war, declared yesterday that many farmers see their markets being "caught in the no-man's land between the opposing economic barrages of the belligerents." The report was prepared for the Agricultural Advisory Council.

The foreign trade situation was summarized as follows:

The allied blockade shuts American products out of German-controlled markets. The allies are applying trade controls in ways tending to favor sources of farm supplies other than those of the United States. Trade measures of European neutrals also are closing markets to American products. Allied control of shipping space and bulk buying outside the United States later may adversely affect cotton exports. The allied selective buying policy for wheat favors producing nations other than the United States. The same policy for pork products favors other nations, but Canada may buy hogs from this country. Exchange controls and import licenses are working against American fruit exports. Tobacco exports are reduced by similar measures. (Associated Press.)

CONGRESS OPENS

Forecasting the opening of Congress today, Turner Catledge reports in the New York Times that the session will begin officially at noon, with separate meetings of the House and Senate. The two houses will convene in the House chamber at 2 P.M. to receive personally from President Roosevelt his annual message which, according to those who saw parts of the manuscript today, will deal chiefly with international questions and will be singularly free of controversial discussions of domestic subjects. The annual budget message, in which it is reported that the President will call for expenditures of above \$8,000,000,000 for the fiscal year 1941, and suggest additional taxes and other means for decreasing the heavy deficits, will be sent to the capitol on Thursday.

LARGER MILK CONTAINERS

Two Chicago dairies announced yesterday that starting Friday they would offer milk in two and four quart containers instead of the conventional one-quart bottle in an effort to lower the price for home deliveries. The two-quart container will be offered for 22 cents, or 11 cents a quart, compared with 13 cents now, while the four-quart container will be delivered for 38 cents, or 9½ cents a quart.

Freedom of
Science

"The Public Relations of Science," the address of the retiring president of the A.A.A.S., Wesley C. Mitchell of Columbia University, is printed in the December 29 issue of Science. "Freedom of scientific work in the years to come can be guaranteed only by preserving the institutions that secure freedom to all citizens," he says in the concluding paragraphs. "Perhaps scientific men have more at stake than any other social group in the struggle to maintain democracy. To this struggle they can make a crucial contribution. The fate of free societies hangs upon the wisdom or folly of mass decisions. The gravest dangers to democracy come from within, not from without. They are ignorance and propaganda that turns ignorance to its uses. The best way of dispelling ignorance is by diffusing knowledge. The most effective defence against meretricious propaganda is critical inquiry. John Dewey is warranted in saying that 'the future of democracy is allied with spread of the scientific attitude.' To foster this attitude among their fellow citizens by all means within their power is a duty incumbent upon us who cherish science. As teachers in schools and colleges we can help thousands to develop respect for evidence. As citizens we can be brave opponents of prejudice and hysteria. We can promote general understanding of the methods and results of science through our own writings or those of allies more skilled in popular exposition. These things we should do, not as high priests assured that they are always right, but as workers who have learned a method of treating problems that wins cumulative successes, and who would like to share that method with others..."

Conservation
Studies

Dr. W. C. Lowdermilk, assistant chief of the Soil Conservation Service, has recently returned from an extended survey of the experience of older countries in the use of land as it relates to soil erosion, soil and water conservation and torrential flood control. His studies took him into Europe, including Great Britain, Holland, France, Italy, Algeria, Tunisia, Lybia, Egypt, Palestine, Trans-Jordan, Syria, Iraw and Lebanon. The war interrupted the course of the survey, which was to have continued through Turkey, Bulgaria, southern Germany and Switzerland and return. The survey was made in overland travel by auto, including nearly 27,000 miles. It included conferences with more than 120 scientists, agriculturists and government officials, the examination and study of 124 areas of special interest, the collection of soil samples, particularly profiles dated by archeological evidence and the taking of some 3,500 illustrative photographs. Of special interest to American agriculture are evidences of an advanced degree of refinement in measures to control and conserve storm waters and to control erosion of a productive agriculture during the Roman epoch 2,000 years ago in Northern Africa and in ancient Syria. (Science, December 29.)

Interstate Trade Bars

The campaign against interstate trade barriers, undertaken successfully in 1939, will be resumed by the Council of State Governments in 1940 with greater attention to regional cooperation and specific commercial problems, according to Frank Bane, director of the organization. Regional meetings of States especially interested in particular subjects will be held during 1940 to promote cooperation in the destruction of trade barriers. Representatives of seven States -- Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan -- will meet in Buffalo January 5-6 to try to reach agreement on legislation to end discrimination against out-of-State beverages. Trade barriers in the South, especially on agricultural products, will be discussed at a meeting in Nashville on January 23 to 27. Other regional meetings are planned, including a ten State conference in the northeastern area, and a joint conference between New York and Pennsylvania. (New York Times.)

Grasshopper Campaign

Crops and range land valued at nearly \$7,000,000 were saved from grasshopper damage in Montana last summer by an extensive control campaign waged at a cost to counties, exclusive of federal funds, of \$35,617.51, according to Dr. H. H. Mills, state entomologist at Montana State college and state leader of the control project. From the standpoint of results obtained per dollar spent, the 1939 campaign was the most successful of any conducted in the last three years, Doctor Mills said. The success is attributed by him to two principal factors. First, he said, farmers themselves participated more extensively than ever before 9,588 spreading poison bait, compared with only 3,086 using bait in 1938. The second reason was the smooth working relationships between various federal state and county organizations and individuals. Cooperating in the control project were the federal Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Indian service, Montana extension service, reclamation service, WPA, CCC, division of grazing, county governments and individuals. (Great Falls Tribune.)

Consumer Protection

The twenty-fifth annual report of the Federal Trade Commission, made public recently, was highlighted by claims of greater consumer protection afforded through enforcement of the acts administered by the commission, and by a record of victory in twenty-seven out of thirty cases in the District and Circuit Courts. Implemented by the Wheeler-Lea Act of March 21, 1938, the commission's power to proceed against false and misleading advertising was cited as one of its strongest weapons in its campaign for consumer protection. (New York Times.)

The Farmer
and 1940

Secretary Wallace asserted recently in a talk broadcast over the Columbia Broadcasting System's network that American farmers would be watching Congress in 1940 to see whether the necessity for general economy will result in the hamstringing of their program. The alternative, he said, might be enactment of some such device as the farmers income certificate plan, "through which the producers of some of the basic farm commodities could be assured of a fair return without placing any extra burden on the general Treasury."

The farmers of a large part of the United States have reason to feel apprehensive about the 1940 prospect, Mr. Wallace said, because they are starting the new year with a great deficiency of soil moisture, in some cases the greatest on record. Already the winter wheat crop has been a failure for thousands of farmers of the Great Plains. Unless more than a normal amount of moisture falls between now and spring, many farmers will begin the next planting season under a distinct handicap, the Secretary pointed out.

The drought will bring into sharp focus the value of the ever-normal granary and crop insurance programs, he added. More than 300,000 winter wheat farmers already have insured their crops, and 100,000 spring wheat farmers are expected to join their ranks, he declared, and there are now more than 160,000,000 bushels of wheat under government loan, which, in addition to the regular carryover, will make almost impossible a shortage resulting from drought. The total American carryover next July 1 will be about 300 million bushels, or one of the greatest in history, Mr. Wallace said. (New York Times.)

"Food and
Life," a
Yearbook

"The other day there arrived in the morning mail a volume with the title 'Food and Life'," says an editorial in the Washington Star. "It was such a book as, left lying on the table with intended carelessness, would give an atmosphere of culture to the home. One would estimate the cost at the book store at around five dollars. The casual caller would hardly notice the subtitle, 'Yearbook of Agriculture,' which appears on the cover in small letters.

"This volume and its companion, 'Soils and Men,' which was issued last year, represents one of the real, tangible achievements of the regime of Henry A. Wallace as Secretary of Agriculture. The two annual compendiums on human, animal and plant genetics of 1936 and 1937 were as good inside, but outside there was the same forbidding title, 'Yearbook of Agriculture.' The attention of all other Government departments is invited to the model job accomplished by Secretary Wallace's literary branch."

Ecuador
Imports

Import control by the government of Ecuador, in effect since the dictatorial regimes of provisional Presidents Federico Paez and Alberto Enriquez, was ended recently by decree of provisional President Andres F. Cordova, says a Guayaquil report to the New York Times.

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Section 1

January 4, 1940.

PRESIDENT ON TRADE AGREEMENTS

In his message to Congress yesterday, President Roosevelt said in part: "Such truly friendly relationships (with Latin-American Republic), for example, permit us to follow our own domestic policies with reference to our agricultural products, while at the same time we have the privilege of trying to work out mutual assistance arrangements for a world distribution of world agricultural surpluses. And we have been able to apply the same simple principle to many manufactured products -- surpluses of which must be sold in the world export markets if we would continue a high level of production and employment. For many years after the World War blind economic selfishness in most countries, including our own, resulted in a destructive minefield of trade restrictions which blocked the channels of commerce among nations. This policy was one of the contributing causes of existing wars. It dammed up vast unsalesable surpluses, helping to bring about unemployment and suffering in the United States and everywhere else. To point the way to break up the log-jam, our trade agreement act was passed -- based upon a policy of equality of treatment among nations and of mutually profitable arrangements of trade.

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PROMOTION PROGRAM

The House Appropriations Committee yesterday decided on a uniform system for administrative promotions, affecting more than 100,000 Federal employees in Washington, but refused to increase the amount of money available for such promotions. The committee's first economy move limits the funds available for promotions within classified pay grades to "lapse money." Under the lapse system now in effect, Government agencies delay appointments by several weeks and replace employees from the upper levels of a pay grade with workers at a lower level within the same grade. Funds accumulated in this way are then used to give administrative promotions to employees with high efficiency ratings. Preference in promotions, according to the formula, will be given employees earning more than \$3,200 who have not received salary increased since 1936, and those under \$3,200 who have not had raises since 1938.

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DR. THOM HONORED

Dr. Charles Thom was elected president of the Society of American Bacteriologists at its meeting in New Haven, Conn., last week. (Washington Post.)

Wintry The decidedly colder weather that swept over much
Weather of the country during the closing days of last week
General persisted throughout the week practically everywhere
 east of the Rocky Mountains, says the January 3 Weekly
Weather and Crop Bulletin. While no extremely low temperatures occurred, the moderate to rather severe cold weather continued day after day. The week averaged from 6° to about 12° below normal in the Northeast, from the southern Lake region southward to the Gulf, in the central and lower Mississippi Valleys, and throughout nearly the entire Great Plains area. Heavy to excessive rains occurred from central California northward, with light to moderate amounts generally from the Mississippi Valley eastward. Some moderately heavy rains occurred in the east Gulf areas, especially in southern Alabama and Florida, and in Georgia. In the Great Plains precipitation was mostly light, ranging from a trace in most northern districts to 0.1 or 0.2 inch in central portions. The far Southwest had a practically rainless week. There was no widespread, extensive crop damage reported from the Southern States.

In the western area from central Utah, Nevada, and central California northward very beneficial precipitation occurred and the general outlook in those areas is considerably improved. The subsoil remains very dry throughout the Plains and in most of the central valleys, with further reports of hauling water for domestic and stock purposes. Aside from the low temperatures retarding growth, precipitation in Southern States, especially from the Mississippi Valley eastward, was decidedly favorable. In most southern sections the soil is now supplied with sufficient moisture for present needs and preparation for spring planting can proceed with favorable weather for outside work. In Texas light precipitation benefited winter grains. Some improvement is reported from Oklahoma, though the wheat is still poor over practically the entire State. Most of both Kansas and Nebraska is snow covered, with little or no drifting; prospects are somewhat improved. In the central Rocky Mountain area, the Great Basin, and the Pacific Northwest, precipitation of the week was decidedly favorable for the winter wheat crop.

Electrified The Tennessee Valley Authority asserted in its 1939
TVA Farms report that its power operations were not on a paying
 basis and that, far from creating a large surplus of
electricity, they already promised to prove inadequate for the growing demand. The number of electrified farms in TVA States, the report said, has increased 185 percent since 1932, as against an increase of less than 100 percent for the whole nation. One of the first rural cooperative to distribute TVA power, the Alcorn County Electric Power Association, it continued, has paid off all its long-term debt in less than five years and has reduced its residential and commercial rates below the TVA standard resale rates. (New York Times.)

Lead in The summary of an article, "Honey and the Lead
Honey Contamination Problem" by H. A. Schuette and A. J.
 Ihde, University of Wisconsin, in Food Research (Nov.-
Dec.) says: "If extracting and processing equipment be kept in good
repair, there seems to be little likelihood that lead need be con-
sidered a contaminant of honey. Contamination from sprays applied to
orchards when in bloom and to fields of flowering plants is probably
automatically taken care of by natural agencies in that bees soon suc-
cumb after having sipped nectar from these sources. Comb honey is
uniformly free of lead. When lead is found in extracted honey
packaged in glass, its source can probably be traced to agencies be-
yond the apiary. The same holds true also for the extracted product
sold in tin pails and cans, although, of course, in either case re-
sponsibility still rests in part with the apiarist who uses old, im-
properly soldered equipment."

Eleventh The leading editorial in American Forests (Jan.)
Commandment says in part: "Those who fail to read Walter Lowder-
 milk's article, 'The Eleventh Commandment' in this
issue will miss one of the most potent articles yet written in support
of conservation. Here he has brought into composite focus the ex-
periences of people down through the ages who have filched upon Mother
Earth and have been unfaithful to her laws of productivity. It is a
depressing story from the standpoint of what has been; a challenging
story from the standpoint of what should and can be man's relationship
to the land that nurtures him, his children, and his children's chil-
dren. Happily, we in America have awakened, tardily to be sure, to a
sense of this relationship and its meaning to our material and
spiritual well-being. We are trying to redeem our past sins of land
abuse and thereby to redeem our land for a free and bountiful destiny.
Though our efforts at times may seem haphazard and disorganized and
our methods wasteful and disputable, a common objective moves us -- to
make peace with the soil that sustains us. Let us therefore dedicate
the New Year not only to peace on the earth among the peoples of the
world, but within our own country, to peace in the earth from whence
comes our eternal sustenance..."

The Eleventh Commandment, according to Doctor Lowdermilk, Chief
of Research of the Soil Conservation Service, "should read somewhat
as follows -- 'Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful
steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to
generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy
living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect
thy hills from over-grazing by thy herds, so that thy descendants may
have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the
land thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and wasting
gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or be
destroyed from off the face of the earth.'"

Back to the Soil A summary paragraph in Back to the Soil, by Janet Van Loon in Country Life (January) says: "As a general summing up of this going back to the soil, I suggest that if you have plenty of money, don't hesitate longer than it takes you to decide what part of the country you like. Then go and take all that it gives you. Let those who are not rich, go in for farming only if they can take with them some income or talent or training that will enable them to earn most of their living while they pay farm hands to do the chores. In that way they can usually break even on the farm and buy the luxuries out of income from their mental labor, making it possible to have a little extra time and a little extra money, which is an almost unbeatable combination for a contented life..."

BAI Cultures "Dr. Axel Thomsen, Director of Research, State in Denmark Veterinary Serum Laboratory, Copenhagen, Denmark, has reported on his experiments to determine the efficacy of vaccination against Bang's disease," the January North American Veterinarian reports in its Therapeutic Abstracts section. "Encouraged by the results of similar experiments reported from the United States, Thomsen started his work in the fall of 1933 and continued his observations over a period of about five years...The vaccination consisted of a single subcutaneous injection of living organisms (U.S.B.A.I. strain 19). The calves tolerated the injections well, according to Thomsen..."

The issue also includes articles: "The Efficacy of N-butyl Chloride for the Removal of Intestinal Nematodes, Especially Whipworms, from Dogs," by Paul D. Harwood, Ph.d.; A. C. Jerstad, D.V.M.; Paul C. Underwood, B.V.Sc., Zoological Division; and Jacob M. Schaffer, M.S., Biochemic Division, U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry; and "Granulosa-Cell Tumor of the Ovary in a Bovine Associated with Secondary Sex Changes" by H. E. Kingman, B.S., D.V.M., Cheyenne, Wyo., and C. L. Davis, D.V.M., Branch Pathological Laboratory, U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, Denver, Colorado.

Home Economics School and Society (December 30) includes a review Leadership paper, Home Economics Education in the United States, by Benjamin R. Andrews, Teachers College, Columbia University, including the activities of the Bureau of Home Economics and the Extension Service. Commenting that more than 2,000,000 rural women and girls are now taking part in home demonstration programs, he writes: "One of the most important results of home demonstration work is the development of capable leadership among rural women. They learn to be efficient officers of their organized groups. They receive instruction in subject-matter and present it to their local home demonstration club. They help plan activities such as exhibits, educational tours, farm women's camps, achievement days, and they stimulate interest in state-wide national and international affairs of concern to rural homemakers. More than 200,000 women serve as volunteer leaders..."

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Section 1

January 5, 1940

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS BUDGETED

In his budget message yesterday, the President included the following paragraphs: "Under the broad heading of agricultural programs I have included Agricultural Adjustment benefits, the surplus removal program and parity payments arising from 1940 appropriations.

"Despite a gratifying general increase in farm income, agriculture is still not receiving its proper share of the national income. I am, therefore, proposing to continue substantially undiminished the various agricultural programs.

"I have not, however, included estimates for new appropriations for parity payments in 1941. I am influenced by the hope that next year's crops can be sold by their producers for at least 75 percent of parity. I do not suggest in any way abandonment of the policy of parity payments heretofore adopted, and future events may call for some appropriation to this end. I note, however, in passing, that the Congress has failed to make any provision for the financing of these payments already made or obligated for 1938 and 1939 crops." (Press.)

NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED

The President yesterday asked for confirmation of the appointment of Grover Bennett Hill of Texas as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. He also submitted to the Senate the nomination of Former Undersecretary of the Interior, Harry Slattery as Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration for a 10-year term; Lawrence I. Hewes, Jr., of California to be regional director of the Farm Security Administration; and A. G. Black of Iowa to be governor of the Farm Credit Administration. (Washington Times-Herald.)

COTTON QUOTAS

State cotton acreage allotments for 1940, totalling 27,070,173 acres, have been announced by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The national allotment for 1940 is 472,842 acres less than for 1939, but the total acreage allotted to farmers under the minimum allotment provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act will be larger than last year, which will offset a substantial part of the reduction. The 27,070,173 acres allotted directly to 19 cotton-producing states, plus the increase under the minimum allotment provisions, will result, with normal yields, in a crop of about 12 million bales, approximately that fixed by Secretary Wallace in proclaiming cotton marketing quotas for 1940-41. The Administration announced also that marketing quotas on rice will not be in effect for the 1940-41 season. (Press.)

Watch Cotton Facts An editorial "What Will The War Do?" in The Cotton Trade Journal (December 16) says: "Most 'men of cotton' in the United States watch the board or the tape or hear the radio reports on price--ask themselves 'Why?', sometimes try to answer, and oftentimes wind up saying, 'I wonder why?' And usually that's no wonder! The Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Washington is an unusually well-staffed establishment, on the whole. Rarely has its integrity been threatened by any attempted political use of its mechanism. Its statisticians, analyzers, and conclusion-drawers, for the most part come from the ranks of 'career men' of the Civil Service, whose devotion is to 'truth as we find it.' Its sources of information are world-wide. Agricultural attaches are in some countries, competent to scrutinize, estimate, and interpret. Consuls are right generally everywhere--most of them keen men. Commercial attaches are in most countries. They, too, are experienced in assembling and judging the authenticity and accuracy of factual data. The Bureau's monthly report on 'The Cotton Situation' which appeared at the end of November, ought to be read, not only by cotton merchants but by United States cotton producers--not to mention ginnermen and warehousemen. It is of peculiar interest if it is read with a memory-glance over the shoulder to what was going on in the world of cotton through the first four months of the Old World War. A quarter-century ago a general conflict on the Continent on the modern scale was a new experience. Nothing like it had ever happened. The Napoleonic wars furnished no applicable precedent. Mechanisms of industry, finance, and international commerce were, for a while nearly paralyzed. Here in the United States our ports were jammed with immovable cargo intended for export....and we were pleading 'buy a bale!' Now, while there is a 'bottom' shortage on the North Atlantic traffic lanes,--due largely to our own alleged 'neutrality act' as applied to American flag ships--through the first three months of the war, we exported more than 2 million bales of cotton. This movement followed a year of small outward movement, many lost foreign customers. In 1914, in the first three months of war we exported about 675,000 bales--at a time when the world was taking nearly 9 million a year from us. In the first month of war not 25,000 bales! The Bureau reports that cotton mill activity in the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and among the significant European neutrals, is at 'a comparatively high level.' The New Great War refuses to follow the pattern of the Old World War--not only as to military developments but as to cotton. It may be well not to guess too much, but instead, to watch for the Bureau's monthly reports and be governed by the facts as they develop."

A.A.A.S. Dr. Albert F. Blakeslee, noted botanist and
Leader director of the Department of Plant Genetics at the
 Station for Experimental Evolution, Carnegie Institution
of Washington, Cold Spring Harbor, L.I., has been chosen president-elect
of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He will
take office at the annual meeting in December, 1940, at Philadelphia.(Press.)

Food Stamp
Comment

The Federal food-stamp plan stands out as one of the major advances of last year in the view of wholesale grocers, according to Winthrop C. Adams, president of the National American Wholesale Grocers Association. "The stamp plan," he said, "has proved successful beyond all expectations of both the Department of Agriculture and the food trades. This plan, of course, has been welcomed by retail grocers because it has brought back into regular channels of distribution a large tonnage of surplus foods. Distribution has been more efficiently done than under the old way of government buying and allotments in amounts and in directions that were not always governed by sound thought or planning. The stamp plan has had the cooperation of public officials, welfare workers and leading wholesale and retail food distributors. Its success warrants rapid extension, which undoubtedly will be done now that the experimental hurdles have been cleared." (New York Times.)

Orchard
Heater

A new type of orchard heater will be tested out by the University of California at the field laboratory in Riverside this winter. New heaters are oil burners equipped with a special combustion chamber in their stacks. By means of this chamber, about 30 percent of the gas resulting from the combustion of the oil fumes is returned to the burner. Most of the oxygen has been burned out of this gas which is inert. Mingling with the oil fumes rising to the combustion chamber, this gas forces apart the carbon molecules in the fumes. It is hoped that this will make possible more complete and cleaner burning of the oil. (Better Fruit, December.)

Imports from
Philippines

The Philippine Islands began on January 1 to pay the economic price of the political independence which is due to be theirs on July 4, 1946. Under amendments to the independence act of 1934, trade restrictions in the form of quotas on some of the Philippines' most important exports to the United States will go into effect. The annual quotas are: Cigars, 200,000,000; scrap tobacco, 4,500,000 pounds; coconut oil, 200,000,000 long tons, and buttons of pearl or shell, 850,000 gross. Exports to the United States above these quotas will pay the full American duty. Moreover, the duty-free quotas shrink progressively until July 4, 1946, when the Philippines achieve their political independence. (Associated Press.)

Conservation
of Resources

The European conflict has created again a danger that American natural resources will be raided for war profits, said Secretary Ickes in his annual report. The Secretary of the Interior asserted that, as during the World War, this country was ignoring the threat to its timber, coal, petroleum and grassland reserves, and added: "At this moment the greatest actual or potential danger with which we are faced are heedless attempts to break through our conservation laws and policies for the purpose of making quick war profits." (Associated Press.)

House Both Houses heard the President's annual message.
Jan. 3 Received the following proposed legislation from
 the Secretary of Agriculture: Insecticide Act of 1910,
to amend; ref. to Com. on Interstate and Foreign Commerce; and for the
relief of certain disbursing officers of the Division of Disbursement,
Treasury Department; to Com. on Claims

Mr. Cannon of Mo. said: "A number of Members have asked when
they can be heard by the Committee on Appropriations on the agricul-
tural appropriation bill. Hearings by the Department have been con-
cluded. All members who desire to be heard...should file their names...
not later than Monday."

Senate Mr. Barkley announced the program for the week:
Jan. 3 Thurs.: Budget message; Fri., Sat., Sun.: In adjournment;
Mon.: Call of calendar.

Items in appendix include: Editorials from Washing-
ton Post and Washington Star in memory of the late F. A. Silcox, Chief,
Forest Service, and an article from New Republic in memory of the late
Robert Marshall, Chief, Division of Recreation and Lands, Forest Ser-
vice (inserted by Mr. Coffee of Wash.); also editorials from Washington
Post and St. Louis Globe-Democrat in memory of the late Robert Fechner,
Director, Civilian Conservation Corps (inserted by Messrs. Randolph and
Nelson).

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Comment An editorial in the Washington Post January 4, says
on Trade in part: "The movement to destroy or emasculate the
Agreements trade agreements program, a movement which has enlisted
 powerful support in and out of Congress, has begun to
produce the inevitable reaction. All over the Nation individuals,
groups and organizations are rallying to the support of Secretary Hull's
policy. The support is motivated by practical as well as idealistic
considerations. Since the trade agreements have undoubtedly brought
practical benefits, particularly to those whose welfare depends on
foreign trade, it is not surprising to find important business organi-
zations coming out strongly in favor of the continuation of the pro-
gram....If the trade agreements program is scrapped, the trend toward
autarchy, a trend which helped produce the present war, will unques-
tionably be encouraged...."

Veterinary The 77th annual convention of the American
Convention Veterinary Medical Association will be held in Washing-
 ton, D. C., August 26-30, 1940, the January North
American Veterinarian reports. President Way has appointed Dr. John
R. Mohler as chairman of the Committee on Local Arrangements and Dr.
Mohler has selected Dr. Adolph Eichhorn to act as associate chairman.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 5

Section 1

January 8, 1940

LOAN COTTON EXCHANGE

In a move to relieve a reported shortage of cotton in the market, the Department of Agriculture has announced that it would exchange government-owned low-grade cotton for cotton of better grade and staple. The government has about 800,000 bales of low-grade cotton, acquired under its 1934 growers' loan program. Supplies of low-quality cotton produced this year, the department said, appeared inadequate to meet market demands. Under the exchange plan, firms and individuals could buy 1938 cotton stored under grower loans and trade it for cotton equal in value from the government's 1934 loan stocks. In this way, the department said, farmers would benefit by cashing in on the equities they now hold in the 1938 crop. (A.P.).

MOISTURE AIDS CROPS

Additional moisture was received late last week in the West and Southwest, the snowfall at some points in Kansas being about equal to the amount received during the Christmas storm which swept over the greater part of the winter wheat belt, says a Chicago report to the New York Times. With the weekly forecast for continued below normal temperature, the snow will afford a great deal of protection to the wheat plants from sudden changes in the weather, crop experts say, and probably came at a time to prevent damage, as much of the snow covering which was received late in December had disappeared.

INTERSTATE TRADE BARS

Resolutions endorsing legislation aimed at breaking down interstate trade barriers have been adopted by some sixty legislators and administrators from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, says an Associated Press report from Buffalo. The resolutions came in the closing session of a two-day conference sponsored by the Council of State Governments and the New York State Joint Legislative Committee on Interstate Cooperation.

TRADE PACTS

Trade treaty negotiations with Uruguay will be ended as soon as official announcements to the effect can be prepared in Montevideo and Washington, according to a report in the New York Times. This became known on the heels of a State Department announcement that negotiations with Argentina had broken down.

Rural Community Education Discussing "Education For the Enrichment of Public Life" in December Rural America, Clarence Poe, Editor of Progressive Farmer, says in part: "Of three brief messages, my first is that if any school is to reach maximum efficiency in serving country life, it must strike its roots deep into a country environment. I believe we should forever insist that the consolidated school which country boys and girls attend should be located in the country....My next message is that if a school is to realize upon all its many opportunities to enrich country life, there should be at least a principal and an agricultural teacher who also take root in the community, adopt it as their own, dedicate their lives to its service, and marry it for better or for worse in the spirit of the preacher in Goldsmith's 'Deserted Village'....I shall ever be troubled with a divine discontent until as a result of the travail of my soul I find in this community not only greater material wealth, but happier existence, more beauty, and a new passion for the highest development of life in all its phases, individual and collective.

"My most important message relates to the development of genuine rural communities all over America. The famous Irish sage, George W. Russell, rightly said that the development of a rural community is now the supreme task of the world's rural leadership. The School of Tomorrow, I believe, will be in a very real sense the little capital of a community republic. After having suffered the break-up and disintegration inevitable with the change from a horse-and-buggy age to an automobile age, rural communities will now find themselves, will establish their definite boundaries, and will integrate themselves about the schools as centers of life -- centers of life not only for the young but for the old, centers of life not only in matters affecting farm work but in matters of recreation, comradeship and all the finer things of existence. Such a school will be in use twelve months in the year by all the people, not merely in use six to nine months by boys and girls. Vocational training and club work for boys and girls will of course always be a major concern of such a school. Nature study will be made a delight. In the arithmetics, problems of farm work will be given equal prominence with problems of commerce and business, and other textbooks and teaching will recognize the fact that America must develop a rural culture no less genuine and important than its urban culture..."

End Wheat Subsidies The Agriculture Department has stopped paying subsidies on most wheat exports in view of prospects for a short crop next year and relatively favorable domestic prices. Plans for abandonment of the subsidy program, except for exports of flour from Pacific Coast ports to the Philippine Islands, were announced by Secretary Wallace. (Associated Press.)

New Potato Production of a new potato variety, resistant
Resists Blight to the deadly blight disease, was announced by Prof.
Donald Reddick of Cornell University at the A.A.A.S.
meeting. The new variety, not yet in commercial production, was bred
by crossing desirable commercial potato varieties with a wild-potato
species from tropical America which had been found highly resistant
to the destructive blight fungus. This half-scrub parentage produced
low-grade potatoes with several undesirable qualities, and the plant
breeder has been hard at work for many potato generations to improve
the quality and yield of the tubers without losing newly acquired re-
sistance. Finally, however, success seems to have crowned his efforts,
for Prof. Reddick stated: "If the potato exhibited holds its record
for one year more, it will be released to seed producers for increase.
It will be named Desert..." (Science Service.)

Disease Possibility of increasing the disease resistance of
Resistant tobaccos grown in this country was suggested in a paper
Tobaccos before the American Association for the Advancement of
Science at Columbus, Ohio, by Dr. E. E. Clayton of the
Bureau of Plant Industry. Native tobaccos were collected in Mexico,
Central and South America in 1935-36. Plants grown from about 1,000
such collections at Arlington Farm, near Washington, D. C., have
shown a wide range of disease resistance. In addition to collections
of the cultivated species, wild relatives have been rated by Doctor
Clayton and his associates on their degree of resistance to four
common diseases--blue mold, wildfire, root knot, and black root rot.
Those with perfect resistance were rated 100 percent and the average of
the four figures gives the average resistance rating. It was found
that *Nicotiana tabacum*--our common cultivated species--ranked next to
last with an average rating of 16. At the top was *N. longiflora* with
an average rating of 94. A value of 75 means high resistance, Doctor
Clayton said.

Because of the differences in character of the cultivated tobacco
and the wild types, Doctor Clayton pointed out, it may not be desirable
to make crosses because quality of tobacco leaf is so complicated and
highly important in marketing the crop. One interesting cross described
by Doctor Clayton was that between cultivated tobacco and *N. debneyi*,
an Australian species with an average disease resistance rating of 75.
The cross produced fertile seed, although because of the wide dif-
ferences in chromosomes an infertile hybrid had been expected. Out of
every 1000 seedlings, however, only about two survived. These plants
were vigorous, however, and closely resembled the tobacco parent and
retained almost the full blue mold resistance of the Australian variety.
Second generations of the hybrid have been obtained and the hybrids
also have been backcrossed successfully with the tobacco parent. "It is
not intended to suggest," Doctor Clayton concluded, "that inter-species
crosses provide anything more at present than a promising line of
approach to certain difficult problems in tobacco disease control."

House Both Houses received the President's 1941 Budget
Jan. 4 message, and adjourned until Monday, January 8.

Senate Received nominations, including: Grover Bennett
Jan. 4 Hill, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; Albert G.
Black, Governor, Farm Credit Administration; Laurence
I. Hewes, Jr., regional director, Farm Security Administration; and
Harry Slattery, Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration.

Received from the Secretary of Agriculture proposed legislation
for amending the Insecticide Act of 1910 so as to include rodenticides;
ref. to Com. on Agriculture and Forestry.

(From Office of Budget and Finance.)

Lights Aid The potato plant seldom produces seed in the field
Potato Seed outside of a few favored areas -- chiefly northern por-
tions of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Maine, and the Colorado
highlands -- so three years ago Dr. H. A. Jones, in charge of potato
work in the Bureau of Plant Industry, set out to make a greenhouse
"climate" similar to that of northern Maine and upland Colorado. Only
by growing the plants during the cool season of the year could the
temperature conveniently be brought down to the proper low level of 45°
to 50° at night and 70° by day. At this time the days were too short
and the plants did not get sufficient sunlight. Doctor Jones found
that under 60-watt bulbs from sundown to 11 o'clock at night the
potatoes responded as though the daylight hours were longer.

At the Horticultural Station, Beltsville, Md., and at the Potato
Field Station, Greeley, Colo., the artificial greenhouse "climate" has
produced larger and more uniform seed crops than under good field con-
ditions similar to those existing in Maine and Colorado. Such
varieties as the Chippewa, which heretofore would not produce seed under
field conditions, have borne good seed crops when given 16 or 17 hours
of continuous light under cool, humid growing conditions in the green-
house.

Refrigerator A combination household refrigerator and individual
and Locker locker storage, both operated from the same electrical
unit, has just been put on the market by a manufacturer
of Corvallis, Oregon, says Pacific Dairy Review (December). "The
machine involves a new but simple principle of connecting the freezing
coils which permits the maintenance of a large section at 5 degrees F.
while alongside is a spacious household compartment held at 38 degrees
F. In addition there is a produce compartment which will hold 10 gal-
lons of cream or a can of cream and other produce. This machine has
just undergone rigid tests at the Oregon State College department of
agricultural engineering, where it was subjected to extreme fluctuation
of temperature in a control room. Men of the department report that it
continued to operate at its rated temperatures in all compartments...It
is being manufactured to sell around the \$400 price range..."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 6

Section 1

January 9, 1940

COMPETITION OF CARRIERS

The Interstate Commerce Commission yesterday told the Nation's railroads that they faced steadily increasing competition from other types of carriers. In its annual report to Congress, the I.C.C. said that "remedial legislation such as it is possible" to evolve from the pending omnibus transportation bill "is desirable and should produce good results." The most important things it would do are: (1) It would bring water carriers engaged in domestic trades within the commission's jurisdiction; and (2) it would create a new and temporary agency to study and report on the relative economy and fitness of rail, water and motor carriers for transportation. (Washington Post.)

R.E.A. SELF HELP PLAN

Allotment of \$170,000 for REA's first complete self help project has been announced by Harry Slattery, Administrator of Rural Electrification. The project is sponsored by the North Arkansas Electric Cooperative of Salem, Arkansas, to supply electricity to more than 600 farm homes in Sharp, Baxter, Izard and Fulton Counties. The main feature of the project is that the members of the cooperative will participate in actual construction of the 205-mile system, using their wages to help pay for house wiring, appliances and fixtures. Mr. Slattery made an additional allotment of \$25,000 which the Arkansas cooperative may relend to members to finance the remaining cost of wiring and plumbing installations.

COTTON IN PAPER

The Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements of the Department announced yesterday a demonstrational program under which a small quantity of low-grade cotton will be used in the manufacture of high-quality paper. The program provides for purchase by the Writing Paper Manufacturers' Association of lint cotton, spinnable waste and cotton linters for the manufacture of fine writing paper and other papers of similar type. Part of the cost of the raw materials will be borne by the Department and part by the Association.

COTTON SUBSIDY

Sales of cotton and cotton products under the export subsidy program amounted to 5,867,000 bales up to January 2, the Department of Agriculture said yesterday. The total included cotton products equivalent to 290,000 bales. It excluded cancellations owing to the war, which have amounted to 46,569 bales since December 21. (A.P.).

Pulp In
Timber
Tops

E. O. Siecke, director of Texas Forest Service, A. and M. College, writes in Southern Lumberman (Jan.) on Pine Pulpwood from Logging Tops. He says in part: "The saying, 'Woodman spare that tree,' is changing in East Texas these days to 'Woodman use that tree!' And using it he is. The timber operator is not only harvesting the lower trunk of the tree but is even going after the wood in the tops. On the use of the top-wood hinges one of the most interesting stories and most far-reaching conservation developments originating in East Texas forests in recent years...In 1936 the Champion Paper and Fibre Company erected a sulphate mill at Pasadena, Texas, which was to manufacture pulp from Texas timber. With the building of that mill a ray of hope appeared for finding a use for the sawlog tops -- making them into pulpwood...Today, several wood contractors are cutting pulpwood on a number of operations from logging tops and tie tops. That means that the project has developed into one of commercial importance...How does the timberland owner benefit? First, he gains an additional profit from his forest holdings by utilizing a former unmerchantable product and benefits from the reduced fire hazard resulting from the salvage operations. Where before tops lay in a jungled mass, often high off the ground, a dreadful fire trap, the tops remaining after pulpwood has been cut are low/the ground and rot away in a short time...These benefits are possible for the farmer as well as the owners of larger tracts of timberland..."

Madrid, New

Sweet Clover from Spain several years ago by L. W. Hephart, of the United States Department of Agriculture, and some of these were sent to J. W. Zahnley, of the Kansas Experiment Station, for testing," says R. I. Throckmorton, Kansas State College, in Country Gentleman (January). "The tests were conducted at many places. One of the strains proved to be superior in several characteristics and has been named Madrid and approved for distribution. Madrid is a yellow-blossom biennial sweet clover with a wide range of adaptation, that produces higher yields, is much more leafy and matures later than the common yellow-blossom variety. It yields about the same amount of forage as the common white-blossom biennial sweet clover, but produces more seed, is earlier in maturing, has finer stems and is more leafy than that variety."

To Discuss

St. Lawrence waterway, with collateral hydroelectric power development, was revived recently under circumstances pointing to the relatively early conclusion of a treaty which will make the improvement possible, says a special report to the New York Times by Bertram D. Hulen. After informal discussions for several weeks between the Washington and Ottawa governments, the State Department said that preliminary details would be considered in discussions with Canadian officials by a United States group headed by Adolf A. Berle, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State.

F.C.A. Loans, New farm mortgage financing, including loans to
Repayments farmers and tenants to purchase farms, showed an up-
in 1939 ward tendency during the last half of 1939 for the
 first time in several years, according to year-end
figures from the Farm Credit Administration. About 8,300 farmers
and tenant families obtained an estimated \$19,600,000 of credit from
the 12 Federal land banks and the Land Bank Commissioner to assist in
financing farm purchases during the last half of the year, compared
to 7,500 obtaining \$17,700,000 in the second half of 1938.

Financing through all F.C.A. institutions increased during the
last half of 1939, although total credit extended during the year,
estimated at approximately \$600,000,000, was slightly lower than in
1938. After dropping sharply each year from 1935 through 1938, total
farm mortgage lending by the Federal land banks and Land Bank Commis-
sioner for all purposes leveled out in 1939. Farmers borrowed approxi-
mately \$78,500,000 from the land banks and Commissioner during the year
compared to \$80,800,000 in 1938. Mortgage lending by all classes of
creditors -- including the land banks and Commissioner -- showed a
slight upward tendency during the year. Farmers are now paying off
mortgage loans from the Federal land banks at a faster pace than in
1929 or any year since then.

The 532 production credit associations loaned more than half the
total credit extended in 1939 by all F.C.A. institutions. Farmers
borrowed \$323,700,000 from these cooperative short-term lending units
compared to \$302,600,000 in 1938. The 13 banks for cooperatives, now
providing approximately one-fourth of the credit used by farmers'
cooperatives in the United States, loaned about \$82,900,000 in 1939
compared to \$94,900,000 in 1938. The decrease was largely accounted
for by a smaller volume of financing by the Central Bank for Coop-
eratives in Washington which lends primarily to associations of
national or regional scope. The 12 Federal intermediate credit banks,
in addition to extending credit to production credit associations and
banks for cooperatives amounting to approximately \$385,000,000, also
made loans to and discounts for privately capitalized financing insti-
tutions and cooperative associations in 1939 aggregating \$89,600,000.
The Emergency Crop and Feed Loan offices, operating under supervision
of the F.C.A., loaned farmers \$15,138,000 in 1939 compared to \$19,-
648,000 in 1938.

Record Sears, Roebuck & Co. has reported that sales for
Sales the twelfth period of its fiscal year -- December 4 to
 December 31, 1939 -- totaled \$76,113,727. The sales
topped those of the corresponding period a year ago, which totaled
\$60,633,795 and were the highest Christmas sales in the company's
history by 25.5 percent. They also were higher than the \$62,505,149
sales in the September 11 to October 8 period last year, which were
the largest for any four-week period in the company's history. (A.P.)

Trade Agreement Fails "Negotiations between the United States and Argentina for a reciprocal trade agreement have definitely 'broken down,' it was announced by the State Department; an official statement will be issued this week," William V. Nessler reports in the Washington Post. "Collapse of the months of negotiations, which even involved White House conferences at times in the efforts to surmount barriers occasioned by similarity of products of the two countries, was not entirely unexpected. Immediate interest here in collapse of the Argentine-United States efforts centered in the political consequences of the breakdown. It appeared to remove the cry of 'Argentine beef' from the fight being waged against renewal of the reciprocal trade agreements act by Western members of Congress, especially those from cattle-raising sections..."

Civil Service Report The Civil Service Commission, in its annual report to Congress, expressed irritation over criticism of the merit system resulting from what it asserted was lack of funds and personnel to carry out the commission's functions in the current "critical situation" in world affairs, and declared that it was determined to use all means in its power to "break this vicious circle."

The commission's recommendations to Congress were summarized as follows: (1) Provision of adequate funds and personnel; (2) extension of the competitive classified service to nonpolicy-determining positions; (3) extension of the classification act of 1923, to include the approximately 315,000 positions in the field service, the salaries of which are not fixed by specific legislative schedule or wage-board method; (4) elimination of duplicating personnel units; (5) amendment of the retirement acts to establish a uniform optional retirement age of 60 years after thirty years' service, or 62 years after fifteen years' service. (New York Times.)

Electricity on Farms One-quarter of all this country's farms now have high-line electric service, according to a statement by Harry Slattey, Administrator of Rural Electrification. This is more than double the number of farms that had such facilities before the Rural Electrification Administration was established in 1935. Under the stimulus of the REA program, Mr. Slattey said, utility companies greatly expanded their service in 1936 and 1937 and since then the REA program has sustained the rate of increase by accelerating its growth.

There are now 400,000 connections to REA lines, compared with 176,000 a year ago. Now in operation are 180,000 miles of line. Twenty-one REA cooperatives have grown to million-dollar size. The agency's allotment of funds for electrification has totaled about \$273,000,000. Only Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut have no REA projects. (New York Times.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 7

Section 1

January 10, 1940

PRICE LEVELS No serious increase in the general price level has
STEADY, SAYS taken place in the first four months since outbreak of the
TNEC REPORT European war, despite extensive rises in the prices of certain imports and of domestic products that have a direct war use, the Temporary National Economic Committee reported yesterday. Continuing its survey of price movements, as requested by President Roosevelt, the committee said that the need for continued scouting of markets is indicated by the fact that raw material prices have been rising sharply during recent weeks and are now more than 11 percent higher than at the end of August, while semi-manufactured products have risen more than 12 percent above the prewar level. On the other hand, the prices of finished products on December 30 were only 3.4 percent higher than on August 26. Part of the reason for this steadiness, the report said, was the seasonal decline in certain food prices, notably meats. (New York Times.)

TRADE PACT Advance skirmishing in the Administration's battle to
HEARINGS extend the trade agreements act opened in the Senate yesterday, as House and Senate minority leaders conceded House approval of a three-year extension, says a report in the Washington Post. With a Senate coalition uniting behind an opposition move to force Senate ratification of future agreements, Chairman Pat Harrison of the Senate Finance Committee said he will take the Senate floor in a few days to defend the act. Harrison, who declared himself "100 percent behind Secretary Hull for extension," said he will present the Administration case to the Senate in advance of House action. House Ways and Means hearings will open tomorrow, with Hull the first witness.

TOBACCO Buyers of dark-fired tobacco paid the highest averages
PRICES UP of the season for leaf at Farmville and Lynchburg yesterday as snow and continued cold weather held many farmers away from market. Lynchburg's total poundage for the day was considerable, amounting to 224,274, but a demand for medium and common grades boosted the average to \$12.50 a hundred pounds. This was the highest average for any one day this season on Lynchburg's floors, comparing with an average of \$11.61 there for all last week. Farmville's average of \$11.58 also was the highest for any day there this selling season. (Washington Post.)

Alaskan Problems The New Republic (January 8) contains a discussion by the late Robert Marshall (Forest Service) of the report, "The Problem of Alaskan Development," by the Department of the Interior. "Alaska has vast resources and some day it will be the home of an increased number of people," he says in the last paragraph. "Before this increase ever commences, those Alaskans at present in need of steady employment should be given the opportunity of earning a livelihood. What keeps these people from any adequate means of support and also holds back new settlement in Alaska is not lack of government stimulation to private investment, but rather lack of a solution to the problem of distribution. Until we are courageous enough to face this problem, we won't make any material contribution to the happiness of human beings merely by pickling herring and processing mink furs on remote frontiers."

Robert Morss Lovett, editor of the New Republic, comments: "The late and greatly gifted Robert Marshall opens his criticism of the report released by the Department of the Interior on 'The Problem of Alaskan Development' with a quotation from President Roosevelt in regard to 'the resettlement of several million refugees in new areas of the earth's surface.' In spite of this, throughout his article he practically ignores this aspect of the plan; I think perhaps his great love of the untouched and untamed wilderness has led him for once to neglect the needs of living people. I feel this is a mistake; the situation of Alaska is unique and its problem should be discussed primarily with reference to its possible contribution to the necessities of the world..."

Rail-Truck "The Farm Products Division of the Borden Company
Milk Tanks (New York City) has leased six railroad flat cars and
 twelve 3,000-gallon demountable milk tanks," says
Business Week (January 6). "These are expected to save 16 percent of the cost of handling bulk milk from railroad yard to city pasteurizing plant. These savings may be increased several times if the initial equipment, adequate for about one-sixth of the company's bulk milk receipts by rail, is extended to handle the entire volume. The key factor in the savings is the demountability of the tank. It is filled and hermetically sealed in the country; moved by fast passenger train service to the city yard; there bodily transferred onto motor trucks or trailers and delivered, seals intact, to the city pasteurizing plant. There it is pumped out once into the main storage tanks...The elimination of this one complete rehandling operation may revolutionize the shipping of bulk milk into all cities by railroads and result in similar savings in shipping liquid sugar, glucose, condensed milk, molasses, and products outside the food field..."

Agricultural Statistics *Econometrica* (January) contains a paper by Charles F. Sarle, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, on objective sampling in agricultural statistics. "In looking into the future," he says in part, "it is not difficult to visualize a return to the county statistical reporter as the source of much of the sample data on which estimates concerning agriculture would be based. He would not be asked to render his service free of charge. He would be given part-time employment and would lose his job if he failed to make the required reports regularly and well. Very little of the data he would submit would be based on his judgment or opinion alone. Once or twice a year he would take an enumerative sample of individual farms in his county -- an objectively designed sample of representative farms. He would obtain information concerning these farms as operating units -- crop acreages, production, and sales; numbers, production, and sales of livestock. Each month he would have variously assigned duties -- the taking of head samples of wheat in one month, cotton-boll counts or ear counts for corn in another month, and perhaps depth of soil moisture another month. Each month he would report on prices received and paid by farmers, numbers of persons employed, and perhaps rate of egg and milk production, as well, on sample farms within the county.

"He also might obtain a record of purchases of farm products by local buyers and processors and shipments out of the county by rail and truck of agricultural products to be used with other data in estimating farm income by counties. Such a program would be more expensive than the present system of voluntary unpaid correspondents, but the resulting statistics would be worth many times the increased cost in the more efficient administration of state and Federal action programs alone."

Periodicals The Committee on Scientific Aids to Learning, in Microfilm President Conant of Harvard, chairman, has made a grant to cover the cost of making a microfilm master negative, on the most expensive film, of sets of volumes of scientific and learned journals. This permits the nonprofit Bibliofilm Service to supply microfilm copies at the sole positive-copy cost, namely 1 cent per page for odd volumes, or a special rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per page for any properly copyable 10 or more consecutive volumes. The number of pages will be estimated on request to: Bibliofilm Service, care United States Department of Agriculture/ Library (Econometrica, January.)

Translation In the December issue of the Journal of Documentary Reproduction appears the first of a projected series of translations of significant foreign articles dealing with documentary reproduction. This first one is "Le Microfilm en France" by Paul Poindron. It was translated by S. T. Ballenger, University of North Carolina.

Senate
Jan. 8

Bills passed: S. 929, to add certain lands to the Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon; H. R. 6832, prohibiting the influencing, corruptly by threats or force, of witnesses in proceedings before any United States agency (this bill will now be sent to the President); S. 2876, to amend the annual and sick leave acts of 1936 so as to provide that only work-days shall be charged against leave; S. Res. 180, continuing the special committee and investigation of unemployment and relief.

Bills passed over: S. 915 (Logan bill) to provide for the more expeditious settlement of disputes with the United States, permitting appeals to the courts on the final decision of a department, etc; H. R. 3794, to establish the King's Canyon National Park, Calif., to transfer thereto the lands now in the General Grant National Park.

Both Houses received the following annual reports: Civil Service Commission, Philippines (H. Doc. 545), Wages and Hours Division (S. Doc. 142), Treasury Department (H. Doc. 485), Public Health Service (H. Doc. 497), Forest roads and trails, Federal Surplus Commodities Corp., regional research laboratories, Commerce Department, Comptroller General, Interstate Commerce Commission, and the Archivist.

Adjourned until Wednesday, January 10.

House
Jan. 8

Mr. Bolivar Pagen, of Puerto Rico, was elected to the House Committee on Agriculture.

Received from Treasury Department a "combined statement of the receipts and expenditures, balances, etc., of the Government" for 1939; to Com. on Expenditures in Executive Departments. (From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

USDA Texas
Laboratory

Texas Farming and Citriculture (January) comments on the dedication last month of the new building of the U. S. Fruit and Vegetable Products Laboratory, Weslaco, saying: "In addresses on the laboratory grounds references were made to the highly important accomplishments of its workers, under the direction of Dr. J. L. Heid, chief chemist, since its establishment in a small way on the Valley Experiment Station farm in 1931. At that time the canning and preserving of this section's fruits and vegetables was an insignificant industry. A huge quantity of products were lost annually because of the inadequacy of facilities for preparing them in non-perishable form for the channels of commerce.

"Chief Chemist Heid put his chemical education and special training in California into his job of developing the best methods for adapting canning and other processing to the distinctive characteristics of certain Lower Valley crops, and numerous processors, with this valuable aid at their command, entered the Lower Valley field making substantial investments here and increasing the section's payroll by thousands of dollars weekly. In 1931 there were not more than four or five well-equipped canning establishments in the area. Now there are nearly ten times as many..."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 8

Section 1

January 11, 1940

HOUSE CURBS SPENDING

The House Appropriations Committee bound all its subcommittees yesterday to stay within the Bureau of Budget recommendations, and in the Senate the resolution by Senator Harrison to set up a joint Congressional committee to coordinate the activities of the revenue and appropriation groups of both branches was unanimously approved.

On motion of Representative Woodrum, of Virginia, the Appropriations Committee adopted by a vote of 14 to 11 a resolution which instructed all subcommittees not to report bills carrying figures greater in the aggregate than those recommended by President Roosevelt in his budget message. The House Committee fight was reported to have been directed principally at the agriculture subcommittee headed by Representative Cannon of Missouri, which last year voted \$225,000,000 in farm parity payments not called for by the budget. (New York Times.)

BRITISH WHEAT DEAL

The British Cereal Import Committee reentered the market yesterday as a buyer of Canadian cash wheat and sales were estimated as high as 20,000,000 bushels, one of the largest single day's business on record. It was the first time the British agency had bought any material quantity of grain since November when it took 10,000,000 bushels. It was estimated the purchases would take care of requirements for about two months.

The action of the wheat market following the announcement of the business was erratic. Prices advanced about 1 cent a bushel early in expectation of a sharp upturn at Winnipeg, but traders were disappointed by the poor response to the news and turned sellers, which caused a break of about 2 cents from the early top. Closing trades on the Board of Trade (Chicago) were 1/2 to 5/8 cent net higher.

The Weather Bureau's weekly crop summary indicated there was little change in the general outlook for the crop because of the dormant condition of the plant. In the western belt where severe and damaging drought had prevailed the result of the recent heavy snow is undetermined. (New York Times.)

U.S. CREDIT FOR NORWAY

The United States yesterday extended credits of \$10,000,000 to Norway. The step was regarded as another effort to bolster Scandinavia because of the Russian invasion of Finland. Jesse Jones, Federal Loan Administrator, said the credits to Norway were being established by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Export-Import Bank for the purchase in this country of agricultural products, manufactured goods and other supplies. (Press.)

**Frozen Food
Industry**

The frozen food industry is changing America's eating habits and uprooting long-established markets for agricultural products "with such rapidity that the nation's farmers do not yet realize the tremendous upheaval taking place," said Harry Carlton, University of Tennessee, who has recently completed a 21,000-mile coast-to-coast tour of farm producing and distribution centers to get first-hand facts on the industry. "The frozen foods industry is knocking the calendar out of the farming game," said Mr. Carlton, "and every farming center from Maine to California is becoming a direct competitor of the other." He went on to say that "the northern states, ^{the} are about to become the winter garden states." He issued a warning to southern farmer in explaining that he is going to be left holding the bag, with the northern grower getting the profits, unless products of exceptional quality and fine flavor are developed to compete with the farm produce of the North, where the freezing industry has reached its highest development. "Individual growers do not realize yet the market is shifting," Carlton said. "For instance, I found in Florida that hotels and other consumers during the height of the strawberry season there, were using fresh frozen strawberries from the North; asparagus from New Jersey that once came from California; peas from Maine that once were supplied from California." (Ice and Refrigeration, January.)

**War's Effect
on Trade**

The war has not yet appreciably stimulated United States export trade, according to a statement by the Department of Commerce for 1939, and as a result export figures for last year show a decrease, while imports increased. For the first eleven months of 1939 exports were \$2,810,000, compared with \$2,825,000,000 for the same period in 1938. The import figures were \$2,071,000,000 and \$1,789,000,000, respectively. Estimated exports for the whole of 1939 were \$3,100,000,000 and imports about \$2,300,000,000. This left an export balance of \$800,000,000 for last year, as compared with \$1,100,000,000 the year before.

Developments in foreign trade in the early months of the war have been strikingly different from the first few months of the World War. This time cotton exports rose while trade in many food products was depressed. There was an initial expansion in shipments of goods to non-European countries which had no counter-part in 1914. These comparisons make due allowance for the fact that United States exports to Europe in recent years had comprised a smaller proportion of total exports, being two-fifths of all shipments during the five years preceding the present conflict as compared with three-fifths in the period preceding the World War. The rise in the proportion of exports going to Asia had been particularly notable. Finished and semi-finished manufactures had accounted for nearly two-thirds of the total export value whereas before the World War they were less than one-half. (New York Times.)

1940 Range
Program

"Back in 1937 a group of ranchmen got together under auspices of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association, the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and other organizations and went to Washington to see that something was done about the range situation," says John McCully, A.A.A. information assistant. "Largely as a result of the efforts of these ranchmen, the A.A.A.'s range program went into effect in Texas in 1937. Each year since then has seen the program gaining more adherents, greater support, and more universal participation...."

"In 1940, the ranchman will have a still greater opportunity to earn the money with which to improve his range land, improve his stock and thereby improve his income, because the 1940 program includes new provisions, more ways to earn the maximum range-building allowances, and a better chance of earning all available money. Fairer calculation of the payment for contour listing, payments for destruction of noxious weeds by mowing, and the opportunity to earn more of the maximum allowance through deferred grazing will insure to more ranchmen than ever before the chance to earn all the money available.

"But even more important to many ranch operators is the special provision for calculating the maximum allowance for the small ranchmen. Allowances are still figured in the same way -- 2 cents per acre of range land plus \$1.00 times the grazing capacity, provided the grazing capacity shall not be calculated on more than one animal unit for each 10 acres and the acreage item shall not be figured on more than 60 acres for each animal unit of grazing capacity. For the benefit of the small ranchman, however, the program further provides that the amount computed shall not be less than 10 cents times the number of such areas, or 640 acres, whichever is smaller...." (Southwestern Sheep & Goat Raiser, January.)

Conservation
of Resources

"Foresighted farmers and intelligent citizens generally doubtless will approve Secretary Wallace's proposed changes in the 1940 AAA program," an editorial in the San Antonio Express says. "As he announces, it will bear down even more heavily on its long-time campaign to save the Nation's soil and forest resources. The AAA local committees must impose stricter standards of performance in soil-conservation and soil-building. On the other hand, the FSA will grant liberal long-term loans to low-income farmers who will carry out terracing, water-utilization and related works under the Soil Conservation Service, county agricultural agents or other competent direction.

"In Texas the Sulak-Ragsdale Act (1939) calls for such development co-operatively over an entire stream-basin or watershed, organized as a conservancy district. Another phase of the problem is concerned with planting trees, alike to keep the soil in place and to restore the heavily depleted timber resources. In meeting that situation the Federal Government should receive support from the States and counties. Both as a civic asset and an object lesson, more State, county and town forests are needed." (PPS 7.)

Congress
Jan. 9

The Senate on January 8 passed H. R. 884, to add certain lands to the Siuslaw National Forest (not S. 929, as previously reported). This bill will now be sent to the President. The Senate was not in session January 9.

The House received from the Secretary of War reports on preliminary examinations, etc., of Arkansas River, Ellicott Creek, Deckers Creek, Frankford Creek, Big Elk Creek, and Elk River, for flood control; ref. to Com. on Flood Control.

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Industrial
Research

Expenditure of about \$215,000,000 in 1939 on industrial research by some 2,000 individual companies in the chemical, petroleum and electrical fields was indicated recently by Dr. William A. Hamor, associate director of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, in reporting to the American Chemical Society on a survey. Doctor Hamor noted that the laboratories of these concerns employed nearly half of the 32,000 scientists and engineers engaged in industrial research, and that 16,000 additional persons served as assistants or clerical workers. Principal results of progress in the United States were seen in the field of synthetic organic chemistry, including hydro-carbon derivatives, fine chemicals, plastics and textile fibers. (New York Times.)

1939 Lumber
Production

Lumber production in 1939 was 16 percent above 1938, while gains of 17 percent and 15 percent were reported for shipments and new orders, according to the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association. In the last week of 1939, production was 36 percent less than in the preceding week, shipments were 14 percent less and new orders 15 percent less. The association explained that the year-end week is always seasonally low, due to holiday shutdowns and inventory taking. (Wall Street Journal, Jan. 10.)

Science
Museum

New services, an extended schedule of scientific and industrial motion pictures and a special section devoted to developments in science and industry will be among the features of the 1940 program of the New York Museum of Science and Industry in Rockefeller Center, Robert P. Shaw, director, has announced. A bureau will be established to serve as a clearing house between industrial corporations and various clubs, societies and other organizations throughout the country in providing information on and making arrangements for speakers, industrial shows and films, etc. (New York Times.)

Course in
Refrigeration

A new extension course in refrigeration will be offered by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, starting February 5, conducted by Prof. Raymond U. Fitz of Tufts College. The course is also offered by correspondence at the same nominal fee, and is open to those outside the state as well as residents. (Ice and Refrigeration, January.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 9

Section 1

January 12, 1940

HULL URGES TRADE ACT EXTENSION

"Secretary Hull called on Republicans and Democrats yesterday to make common cause in the face of world conditions on behalf of the nation's best interests, as he opened his testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee in favor of extension for three years of the reciprocal trade agreements act," says Harold B. Hinton in the New York Times. "...Mr. Hull repeatedly referred to trade figures to demonstrate that the United States had been more prosperous under the reciprocal trade program which he and President Roosevelt have advocated than under the 1930 tariff..."

"In his formal statement, Mr. Hull said that the farm cash income of the country had fallen from \$11,200,000,000 in 1929 to \$4,700,000,000 in 1932, 'after two and one-half years of Hawley-Smoot' tariff embargoes,' and had risen to \$7,600,000,000 by 1938, exclusive of benefit payments, 'after four years of the trade agreements program.' Representative Knutson of Minnesota challenged this presentation of statistics by the assertion that farm income had risen from its low point in 1932 to \$6,300,000,000 by 1934, before the trade agreements program had started, 'although it was partly due to pump priming.'..."

"Mr. Hull's principal thesis was that the twenty-two agreements had obtained important foreign markets for American agricultural and manufactured products making up some 60 percent of the nation's foreign business, at the expense of carefully studied concessions which had caused no serious damage to domestic interests..."

OPPOSE FREIGHT RATE RULING

The Interstate Commerce Commission received notice yesterday that northern railroads were ready for a fight over the South's recent freight rate victory, says an Associated Press report. Defendant carriers in the Southern Governors' rate case, decided largely in the South's favor, filed a petition asking the I.C.C. to postpone for sixty days the effective date of the order. They told the commission a petition for "reopening, reconsideration and reargument of this entire proceeding" was in preparation.

RESOURCES REPORT

President Roosevelt, transmitting a progress report of the National Resources Committee, told Congress yesterday that "provision for the wise use and conservation of our national resources must necessarily be one of the primary responsibilities of the Federal Government at all times." The committee made a report which was largely a compendium of separate reports previously published. (Washington Star.)

Correction In the Daily Digest, January 4, page 2, the second item said: "The TVA asserted in its 1939 report that its power operations were not on a paying basis." This should have read: "Its power operations were NOW on a paying basis."

Transport The Wall Street Journal (January 11) commenting
System editorially on the annual report of the Interstate
Commerce Commission, says in part: "Running through the Commission's report, though not directly expressed, is the thought that the country is supporting a greater elaboration of transport facilities than it can in the long run afford. The report again emphasizes the great wastefulness of the present 'set-up,' but the Commission is at pains to refute the idea that it has a 'cheese-paring economy' in mind. It says: 'Consolidation, coordination and the better adjustment of competitive conditions will reduce transportation costs, but they can also open the door to the better service and lower prices which will create new business and employment.' This at least outlines a promising approach to the extremely difficult job of bringing order into our present transportation chaos. The Commission believes, no doubt rightly, that a thorough study of the subject by a disinterested outside agency is the essential preliminary. It will cost something, but it should by all odds be worth its cost."

Casurina "Experiments conducted at the University of Tampa
for Pulp indicate that Casurina (Australian pine) may be a highly economical source of pulpwood," says Donald D. Bode, of the university, in Manufacturers Record (January). "Using not too satisfactory laboratory apparatus which we were obliged to design and construct ourselves, we have produced 40 percent and better pulp on a dry basis, containing 90 percent and higher alpha cellulose. Since 87 percent alpha cellulose is the minimum required for the viscose rayon process, the experiments indicate a new source of rayon. Other products made from alpha cellulose include cellophane, gun cotton, enamel and lacquers, artificial leather, synthetic ivory and amber, collodion, blasting gelatin and various plastics. The Florida state forestry service estimates that 120,000 acres under forest management are needed to supply a 200-ton mill with slash pine. The same mill would be supplied adequately by a 24,000-acre tract of Australian pine. While 120,000-acre tracts are rare, 24,000-acre tracts are common in Florida..."

"Experiments conducted at the Department of Agriculture's forest products laboratory in Madison, Wis., some years ago resulted in a report that Australian pine fiber produced by sulphate process was too short for Kraft paper, but was easily bleached. In the light of this research, we experimented with soda (alkaline) cooking, run in a direct fired cooker, and produced pulp with an alpha cellulose content of 90 to 95 percent and a 40 to 42 percent yield on a dry basis. Pulp

thus produced requires not to exceed six percent bleaching powder, 35 percent available chlorine, to obtain a product equal in whiteness, to the eye, to bleached sulphite spruce, thereby effecting a considerable saving over pine in the quantity of chlorine used..."

BHE 1939

Report

Many contributions toward bettering the level of living for families of this country were made by the Bureau of Home Economics during the last year, according to Dr. Louise Stanley, Chief, in her annual report. In the nutrition laboratories, studies were completed to determine the vitamin A requirement of normal adults. The average minimum was found to be from 3,500 to 4,000 international units per day but more is recommended. In view of the importance of vitamin B₁ in the diet and lack of definite knowledge of the amounts in common foods, 125 foods were assayed to determine the B₁ content.

Doctor Stanley reported that results from the study of cotton in women's hose were encouraging. Designs have been worked out which combine wearing qualities and style appeal. From the measurements of 133,000 children, the staff worked out new sizes for children's garments based on height and hip girth instead of age. Adequacy of diets of the nation's families is appraised through surveys of family food consumption. The surveys made as a part of the Consumer Purchases Study indicate that farm families are the best-fed population group in this country. How families use their incomes have been shown by other data from the Consumer Purchases Study.

The final report of the bureau's study of farm homes in 46 States was published last year. Another publication issued during the year suggests features for farm dwellings in the different regions.

Graduate School

A catalog with list of courses now offered by the Graduate School of the Department may be obtained from Room 1031 South Building. The office is open every week day except Saturday until 5:45 p.m. for consultation or registration. Registration should be completed by January 27. A number of new courses have been included in the general fields of Accounting, Botany, Chemistry, Clerical and Secretarial, Economics, Engineering, English, Literature and Drama, Geography, Graphic Presentation, History, Landscape Design, Languages, Management, Mathematics, Meteorology, Music, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Short-hand and Stenotypy Development, Speech, Statistics, Writing, etc.

Formic Acid in Ensilage

Formic acid, characteristic secretion of ants, has been found to be a good preservative for ensilage of high protein content, in German experiments, according to a Science Service report. It does not have untoward effects on the physiology of the animals that consume it. It is therefore expected that synthetic formic acid will at least partly replace other acids, like sulfuric and hydrochloric, which have hitherto been used for this purpose.

Senate Passed without a record vote S. Con. Res. 33, the
 Jan. 10 Harrison resolution providing for a joint committee of 24
 to study the 1941 Budget. In the House, the resolution
 was referred to the Rules Committee.

H. R. 6687, to authorize levy of State and local taxes on certain
 U. S. lands, was recommitted to the Finance Committee at request of
 Mr. George, for consideration of amendments "overlooked."

House Passed antilynching bill.
 Jan. 10 Committee on Appropriations reported H. R. 7805,
 Emergency Defense Appropriation Bill, 1940. (H. Rept.
 1479.)

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

AMA Report "Many hundreds of food products have been accepted
 on Foods by the American Medical Association, as will be noted
 from that organization's recent report -- Accepted Foods
 and Their Nutritional Significance -- published by its Council on
 Foods," says an editorial in Food Field Reporter (January 8). "This
 is the first book on foods to be issued by the AMA. It presents a vast
 amount of data not only on those foods which have been accepted by the
 Council but nutritional data as well on various types of foodstuffs.
 The procedure to be followed in obtaining the association's seal of
 approval is difficult. The association has set high standards, and,
 in fact, reserves for itself the right to consult with the Federal Food
 and Drug Administration on those products which do not meet its
 standards or those of the FDA. The book is efficiently indexed and is
 easy to read."

Civil Service The Civil Service Commission has announced the
 Examination following examination: / No. 10 assembled, Junior Professional Assistant,
 \$2,000 a year, Optional Subjects: (1) Administrative
 Technician; (2) Agricultural Economist; (3) Agronomist; (4) Animal
 Breeder; (5) Archaeologist; (6) Archivist (7) Biologist (Wildlife);
 (8) Chemist; (9) Engineer; (10) Entomologist; (11) Forester; (12)
 Geographer; (13) Information Assistant; (14) Legal Assistant; (15)
 Librarian; (16) Metallurgist; (17) Olericulturist; (18) Meteorologist;
 (19) Plant Breeder; (20) Poultry Husbandman; (21) Public Welfare
 Assistant; (22) Range Examiner; (23) Rural Sociologist (24) Social
 Anthropologist; (25) Soil Scientist; (26) Statistician; (27) Textile
 Technologist; (28) Veterinarian. Applications must be on file not
 later than the following dates: (a) February 5, if received from
 States other than those named in (b), (b) February 8, if received from
 the following States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana,
 Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

January 15, 1940

PROCESSORS

NOT FARMERS, SAYS COURT

"A contention by the National Labor Relations Board that persons employed in processing agricultural products in factories off the farms where the products are grown are industrial employees and not laborers in agriculture has been upheld in a decision handed down by the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco," reports C. W. Hurd in the New York Times. "The decision, hailed by the labor board as extending its jurisdiction into a disputed field, was reported from the board's San Francisco office.

"The gist of the decision was made public as follows: 'When the product of the soil leaves the farmer, as such, and enters a factory for processing and marketing, it has entered the status of industry.' This decision was incorporated in an opinion in which Judges Curtis D. Wilbur, Clifton Mathews and Albert Lee Stephens concurred. The case revolved primarily around a question whether the NLRB could assume jurisdiction over a factory owned cooperatively by a group of citrus fruit growers..."

FRANCO- SPANISH TRADE

A wireless from Madrid to the New York Times, by T. J. Hamilton, says that Marshal Henri Philippe Petain, the French Ambassador, Juan Beigbeder y Atianza, the Foreign Minister, and other prominent members of the Spanish Government and the French commercial delegation have successfully negotiated a trade agreement between the two countries. The treaty, which is of the greatest political as well as commercial importance, is expected to be signed soon. Spanish oranges and French wheat are the two principal items covered in the pact, which provides that each country shall buy about 650,000,000 francs worth of goods in the next few months. Oranges will make up about half of France's purchases from Spain. The treaty calls for a balance of trade between France and Spain.

FARM WAGE RATES DOWN

The average of wage rates paid hired farm workers over the country dropped a little less than usual the past few weeks, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. Farm wage rates on January 1 averaged only 119 percent of the 1910-14 level. The index was down 7 points, or 6 percent from the October 1 figure, compared with a normal decline of 7 percent from October to January. On January 1, 1939, farm wage rates averaged 117 percent of prewar.

Medical Care The director of the Bureau of Medical Economics
for Migrant of the American Medical Association, R. G. Leland,
Workers reports in the January 6 issue of the J.A.M.A. on "Med-
 ical Care for Migratory Workers." He describes the
Agricultural Workers Health and Medical Association, established
through the Farm Security Administration, California State Department
of Public Health, U. S. Public Health Service and California Medical
Association. The association, although incorporated in California,
was given legal authority to do business in other states.

"In the opinion of those who are constantly in touch with the
demand and supply of medical services to migrant workers in Cali-
fornia and Arizona," Dr. Leland says in part, "the members of the
Agricultural Workers Health and Medical Association are receiving
medical care which is in all cases equal, and sometimes superior, to
that which they would be able to obtain as private patients acting
as their own contractors for the services needed. Although the
association limits the services which it provides chiefly to the
field of emergency medical care, it has frequently been found to be
economically sound to provide medical and surgical care for chronic
conditions outside the strictly emergency category. This policy is
explained on the ground that the relief of many chronic conditions
has lifted heads of families from the unemployable to the employable
class, thus enabling them to provide for their families, who otherwise
would remain public charges...."

"The officers of the Association recognize that the plan adopted
for its members is something of an experiment. Many changes have
been made in the manual of procedures, and conferences to discuss
policies and procedures are held with the professional groups in the
several districts. The board of directors and the administrative
officers have endeavored to confine their activities to fiscal policies
and to place responsibility for the conduct of medical services on the
medical and dental professions. A fairly generous amount of funds has
been made available by the Farm Security Administration for the
association's medical program. Time will demonstrate the practicability
of this type of medical relief and the changes that may be needed to
maintain and advance the quality of medical and health protection for
the migrant group of the general population."

Canadian The agricultural branch of the Dominion Bureau of
Farm Output Statistics has issued a preliminary estimate of the
 gross value of agricultural production in Canada in
1939, placing it at \$1,133,545,000, an increase of \$97,015,000 over
the 1938 estimate of \$1,036,530,000. The 1939 gross value was the
highest since 1930, when the total was \$1,235,310,000. The principal
increase in 1939 was in the value of field crops as the result of a
great improvement in yields which more than offset the decline in prices
from 1938. (Canadian Press.)

Bulletins on Conservation "In April, 1938, the American Nature Association began publication of a Quarterly Bulletin as a means of presenting more exhaustive discussions of conservation questions," says Arthur Newton Pack, president of the Association and editor of Nature Magazine, in the January issue. "Many members of the Association, and others, have urged that the material in these Bulletins be given wider circulation through publication as an integral part of Nature Magazine. In recognition of this demand, therefore, the Association announces the substitution of special inserts, of which 'Wildlife Management and our Big Game Animals' by William M. Rush (formerly of Forest Service and Biological Survey) is the second, for the Quarterly Bulletin. A limited number of separates of this insert will be printed and made available to members of the American Nature Association, and to others who can aid in furthering conservation education, to which the Association is dedicated."

Robert Marshall "When Robert Marshall passed away in mid-November the outdoors lost a champion, the wilderness a defender," says an editorial in Nature Magazine (January).

"After service as the forester of the Indian Service of the Department of the Interior, Bob Marshall became chief of the Division of Recreation and Lands of the United States Forest Service. He was the active force in the Wilderness Society, an organization dedicated to outdoor preservation...His statements of wilderness values and philosophy, published in the April, 1937, issue of Nature Magazine, will, we believe, endure as the Magna Charta of those who feel as he felt...There is left a responsibility for all of us who realize the irreparable losses that come from over-exploitation of the forests and wildlife, indiscriminate road building, unwise recreational projects and the other by-products of the American mania for 'development'. Bob Marshall sounded the warning that 'the universe of the wilderness, all over the United States, is vanishing with appalling rapidity. It is melting away like the last snowbank on some south-facing mountain-side during a hot afternoon in June. It is disappearing while most of those who care more for it than anything else in the world are trying desperately to save it.' We must heed this warning."

Small Wool Carryover The carryover of domestic wool in the United States at the beginning of the new marketing season on April 1, 1940, is likely to be the smallest in recent years, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has reported. Because of the small supplies of domestic wool available, interest in the wool market in the next few months will be centered largely on foreign wools. With mill consumption likely to continue at a fairly high level in the first quarter of 1940, imports of apparel wool in the early months of 1940 probably will be larger than at any time since the early months of 1937.

Congress The Senate Committee on Banking and Currency
Jan. 11 reported favorably the nomination of Albert G. Black
 as Governor of the Farm Credit Administration. Senate
adjourned until January 15. The House Interstate and Foreign Com-
merce Committee announced hearings for January 16 on H. R. 6652, to
aid consumers by setting up standards of quality based on performance
as a guide in the purchase of consumer goods.

House The House passed H. R. 7805, emergency supplemental
Jan. 12 defense appropriation bill for 1940. Mr. Horton was
 elected to the Committee on Agriculture. Mr. Hoffman
resigned from this committee. Adjourned until January 15.
(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Trade Pacts Secretary Wallace urged the continuance of the
Aid Farmers, administration's trade agreements program as an aid
Says Wallace to the prosperity of the American farmer, in whose
 behalf most of the opposition to the program has been
raised, said a special report in the Washington Star. In his state-
ment to the House Ways and Means Committee, he told Representative
Gearhart of California that under the agreements the farmer is
"progressively better off, his income progressively increasing, his
prices are not bad." Mr. Wallace's arguments in summary were these:

The rise in agricultural imports of recent years is not due to
the duty-lowering of the trade agreements. He knows of no case where
duty reduction has seriously inconvenienced American agricultural in-
dustry. Despite statements that the program hurts the cattle-raiser,
the cattle-grower today is getting a parity price for his products.
There is no foundation for "loose talk" that agricultural industries
are singled out for sacrifice under the trade program. In fact, agri-
cultural imports declined in 1938-9 from 1934-5 and are well below the
annual average of the 1920's.

The program's worth is shown by the fact that the trend of agri-
cultural exports is greatest toward those countries with which we have
agreements. Improved foreign markets for industrial goods brought about by
the program aid the farmer by enhancing the industrial purchasing power.
Mr. Wallace granted that world conditions -- trends toward total-
itarianism and insistence on national self-sufficiency -- have kept the
agreements program from advancing commerce so far as the program's
backers hoped.

100-Year-Old The Southern Planter, "the oldest agricultural
Farm Journal journal in America," was established at Richmond,
 Virginia, in 1840, so the issues this year commemorate
its one hundred years of service to agriculture. In the January issue,
among other features, are a letter from President Roosevelt, an article
by Secretary Wallace and "100 Years of Population Movement" by O. E.
Baker, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 11

Section 1

January 16, 1940

TRADE PACT TESTIMONY

Edward J. Noble, Under Secretary of Commerce, endorsed the Administration's reciprocal trade agreements program as being of "incalculable value" to United States industry, agriculture and the nation as a whole in testifying yesterday before the Ways and Means Committee, says a special report in the New York Times. Mr. Noble read into the record the report of the Business Advisory Council of the Commerce Department, which was submitted to Secretary Hopkins last week and which called for continuation of the program.

In replying to an assertion of Representative Knutson of Minnesota that agricultural exports have declined under the trade agreements from \$752,000,000 in 1932 to \$683,000,000 in 1939, Mr. Noble told Representative Doughton of North Carolina, committee chairman, that the increased foreign markets for manufactured goods (introducing statistics to show that nonagricultural exports had expanded from \$1,156,000,000 in 1932 to \$2,202,000,000 in 1939) have provided greater domestic purchasing power for American workers to buy farm products. Representative Robertson of Virginia said that gross farm income has risen from \$5,562,000,000 in 1932-33 to \$7,150,000,000 without government benefits, or to \$9,262,000,000 including benefits in 1938-39.

PRESIDENT ON TVA PLAN

President Roosevelt forwarded to Congress yesterday a request of the Tennessee Valley Authority for additional power to develop into a vast recreational area parts of the six Southern States embraced in the TVA project. Actually, according to the President, the development of electric power was only a relatively small part of a great social and economic experiment in one of the major watersheds of the continent.

Among the purposes, Mr. Roosevelt mentioned the prevention of loss of life and property incident to floods which had taken an annual toll of \$20,000,000 in property damage. "Furthermore," the President states, "the original objective of the law included many other things, such as the planting of water-retaining forests near the head waters of the many rivers and streams, the terracing of farm hillsides, the building of small check dams, the development of fertilizers, the diversification of crops and other soil-building methods, the improvement of the highways and other forms of transportation, the bringing in of small industries, the extension of rural electric lines and many other similar activities." (New York Times.)

Electricity "Electricity is a boon to hard-working farm wives,
for Schools and much has been made of that fact in promoting REA,"
 says an editorial in the Missouri Ruralist (January 6).
"But little has been said or written about what the genie of juice
means to rural school teachers and children. Light on the gloomy days
when young eyes are peering at small-typed books. Heat quickly when
school lunch is to be prepared. Music from the radio when entertain-
ment is desired or exercises demanded. News from the far-flung
quarters of the world at turn of a dial. Of course, many Missouri rural
schools close to power lines have had electrical service for years past.
But REA has brought 'juice' to many more....Of the many social experi-
ments in recent years it is doubtful whether any has accomplished more
good for farm folks than the Rural Electrification Act....REA is built
on faith. The consumer is even allowed to make his own meter reading
and report on current used. Unless the power companies bestir themselves
REA will be greatly extended in 1940...."

All-America A mounting demand for yellow tomato juice set
Vegetables plant-breeders to work on an improved yellow tomato.
 Mingold, introduced this year by the Minnesota Experi-
ment Station, is large, juicy, and in all respects excels older yellow
varieties. It yields somewhat better than the Marglobe variety. A
Silver Medal winner in the 1940 All-America selection of vegetables, it
is available from the leading seed houses. Leading the vegetable nov-
elties for 1940 is a bush lima bean named Baby Potato. Experience so
far seems to indicate its ability to set more pods than the bean common-
ly raised.

To Iowa's light-yellow sweetcorn hybrid, Ioana, goes the bronze
medal of the All-America Selection Committee. It is recommended to
replace Bantam Evergreen, is fine for home gardens, and valuable for
canning. For salad-lovers, the new Silver-Medal endive, called Deep
Heart Fringed, is attractive. Other new vegetables announced by the
committee are the Fordhook Pepper and Evergreen Parsley. (Successful
Farming, January.)

National In 28 years of land buying for National Forests
Forests under the Weeks Law, the United States has purchased
 16,369,751 acres. This is an area approximately as
large as Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont combined. An
additional 890,094 acres have been approved for purchase but not formal-
ly transferred to government ownership. For the land actually purchased,
the government has paid \$61,260,435. These are main points in the annual
report of the National Forest Reservation Commission.

U. S. County Consolidation "The lines of difference between rural and urban lines of government are being softened rather than sharpened," says J. B. Shannon, University of Kentucky, in summarizing his article, "County Consolidation," in The Annals (January). "Suburbanization is blurring the distinctions between the two. As this is written, megalopolitanism seems on the defensive in Europe. Huge metropolises are being evacuated. People of Paris and London, for example, may spend from three to ten years in the countryside. The present world war may well bring the much discussed industrial decentralization. If it happens in Europe, it will come to America as well. The development of a low-resistance conductor of electric power will tend to eliminate still further urban and rural differences. It is here that the balance between country and city -- the equilibrium between the natural and the man-made -- may be obtained. When and if this trend becomes dominant, it is probable that the existence of municipal and county governments in the same area will disappear. Counties and cities may well merge in a genuine local government, for the decentralization of economic power may permit the decentralization of political power."

Specialized Honey Markets It is often urged that sales of honey be made through the large packers in order to secure uniformity through blending, says an editorial in the American Bee Journal (January). "However," it continues, "it would seem that the beekeeping industry has overlooked the advantage which might come to those who produce honey of special quality, if they would sell it unmixed with other honey and under its own name. While there is a great variety in color and flavor of honey in different localities, there is also a similar variation in the taste of the consumers. Honey which is too strong for one taste may exactly suit another. In Michigan much honey is secured from raspberry, in Georgia there are large areas where gallberry honey is produced. New York has an area from which comes the wild thyme and the Southwest supplies honey from mesquite. Each one of these is distinct and worthy of its own special market. Dozens of other similar sources might be mentioned...."

"Production for Use" "California's much-discussed production-for-use plan, sponsored by Gov. Culbert L. Olson, got under way in Los Angeles last week when the first 'Cooperating Consumers' Outlet' opened for business," says Business Week (January 13). "Unemployed persons from rolls of the State Relief Administration serve as clerks in the store, and only relief clients may purchase goods -- 50 percent of which come from existing production cooperatives, set up by the S.R.A. Items sold include fresh meats, fruits and vegetables, milk, butter, eggs, and canned goods. Customers are given a purchase record book which entitles them to buy merchandise for cash. The store clerk enters each transaction in the customer's book. Periodically, profits (if there are any) will be apportioned among customers on the basis of their purchases."

Improved White Lead "Improved manufacturing technique in the production of white lead has resulted in three interesting developments which are important to the paint user; the light-reflective quality of white lead has been increased from approximately 81 percent to about 90 percent," says C. F. Greeves-Carpenter in Scientific American (January). "Still another improvement has been an increase of almost 23 percent in hiding, or covering, power. Fewer gallons are required to cover a given area of surface. A third development has been an increase in paint-thickening properties, or bodying power, of white lead which decreases the tendency of the paint to run and sag during application and hence allows for greater brushing quality."

BPI Reports Progress Highlights of research results for the last fiscal year in the field of soils and plants have been announced in the annual report of Dr. E. C. Auchter, chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry. The report is made up of more than 100 short topical summaries of definite accomplishments. In the reorganization of the Department late in 1938, the Soil Survey Division and Soil Chemistry and Physics Division were transferred to the Bureau of Plant Industry. All basic research of the Department on soils and plants is now centralized in one administrative unit. During the year P. V. Cardon, formerly in charge of the Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, was named Assistant Chief of the Bureau. Dr. O. S. Aamodt, head of the Department of Agronomy at the University of Wisconsin, was appointed to head the forage crops work.

Textile Report The decline of the cotton textile industry in New England, leaving thousands unemployed and stranding entire communities, was attributed in a Federal report recently to over-expansion of the industry and competition from substitute fibers and low-wage southern mills. The report, compiled by the Works Projects Administration, used the closing of the Amoskeag Mills at Manchester, N.H., once the world's largest single cotton manufacturing unit, as an example of the plight of New England cotton mill centers.(A.P.)

Elastic "Glass" With the appearance of glass, with flexibility and elasticity, with resistance to water, perspiration, alcohol, and many oils and solvents, a new material just announced may find many uses in everyday life and in industry. In its natural color it is clearly transparent, but may be made also in rich and sparkling colors. At the present time this elastic "glass" is being used for making garters, belts, and braces but the manufacturers claim that it will soon go into the manufacture of luggage, handbags, women's belts, and many other similar items. Since it is quite tough, does not scuff or crack, is odorless, tasteless, and non-toxic, it probably will be adapted to the manufacture of many novelties. (Scientific American, January.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

January 12⁷, 1940

NO FOOD

PROFITEERING,

SAYS U.S.D.A.

There is "no statistical evidence" of food profiteering in the United States since the outbreak of the wars in Europe and, in fact, the margin between farm and retail prices is less than it was when the strife began, according to a report yesterday to the agricultural advisory council of the Department of Agriculture from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. A second report by the bureau, treating longer-range aspects, said that by comparison with 1929 levels, food prices were relatively low in relation to prices of other goods which made up the average consumer's cost of living.

The advisory council was unanimous at its meeting, the department stated, in its expression that in the interest of national recovery farm prices should be in balance with other prices. The view was offered that a relatively modest increase in retail prices would result in a substantial increase in farm prices. Secretary Wallace reminded the council members that on September 22, when a committee of the council visited the President, it gave the promise that there would be no profiteering in food. "The record since that time," Mr. Wallace said, "shows how fully the food industry has made good that promise."

"Food prices are still relatively low in relation to prices of other goods in the average consumer's cost of living," the Bureau of Agricultural Economics report said, "whether comparison is made with prices of 1937 or 1929; and this relatively low level of retail food prices, reflected equally in relatively low prices received by farmers for foods, contributes greatly to the present discrepancy between farm income and parity income..." (New York Times.)

CONTAINERS

FOR MILK

Business increases of 10 to 20 percent have been achieved by two New York City independent dairies in experiments with a plan for giving consumers discounts of 3 cents a quart on all bottled milk above a specified minimum delivered to their homes, officials of the two companies announced yesterday. Both companies are using adaptations of a plan introduced about a year ago in Minneapolis and Des Moines. (New York Times.)

A Chicago report to the Times says a bottle 10 1/2 inches high and 4 25/32 inches in diameter henceforth will be considered the standard glass 2-quart milk container, it was decided by the Glass Container Association of America and the Dairy Industries Supply Association.

Export and Import Trade "Secretary Hull's exposition of the reciprocal trade agreement policy and its results before the House ways and means committee, admirable in temper and content, has now been supplemented by Secretary Wallace's spirited contradiction of the familiar cry that the State Department has 'sold the American farmer down the river,'" says an editorial in the Wall Street Journal (January 15). "...Both Cabinet members base their advocacy of the agreements on their total effects upon the American economy as a whole. Neither attempted to deny that the tariff concessions we make in these agreements inflict temporary hardships upon particular industries or specific units of certain industries...."

"The simple fact remains that we need to sell abroad, in the interest not only of manufacturing industry and its employes but that of our farmers as well, and that we cannot continue to sell abroad unless we also buy abroad. Even if we were determined to put the United States upon a self-contained economy to the extent of importing only what we cannot produce here and selling abroad only what the world were willing and able to take under such restrictions, the transition would mean an indefinitely long period of hardship for our people, industrial workers and agriculturalists alike...."

"Probably not all of the agreements already made are perfect from our point of view; doubtless some mistakes remain for correction hereafter. It still is true that Mr. Hull has approached the problem of dealing with a progressive strangulation of international trade along the only avenue open to remedial efforts. The results so far, we believe, justify the approval Secretaries Hull and Wallace have given the policy, but its merits can only be conclusively judged in the light of its longer-term consequences. It deserves a further trial."

Control of Citrus Thrips "Control of citrus thrips seems certain of accomplishment, according to H. L. Thomason of the growers service department of the Mutual Orange Distributors," says Citrus Leaves (January). "A new program, developed by Drs. A. M. Boyce and Charles O. Persing of the Citrus Experiment Station, Riverside, is showing remarkably effective results, Thomason says, in the 400 experimental plots scattered throughout California's citrus producing areas during 1939. So effective is the plan that it was used on a commercial scale in several instances last summer, though it had not been officially announced, and it is estimated that approximately 50,000 trees were treated during the year with satisfactory results. The control measures consist simply of spraying the trees with a toxic material according to the following formula: $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of tartar emetic; 2 pounds of sugar; 100 gallons of water. Inasmuch as it is necessary to apply the material to the outside branches only, where there is new growth on which the thrips work, it may be applied as a fog. Only from 3 to 5 gallons of the liquid are required per tree..."

**Terminal
Markets**

Under the title, "What Is a Good Market?" in the American City (January) C. B. Sherman, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, says: "So many citizens and officials, concerned over high marketing costs, are asking this question of the U. S. Department of Agriculture that answers are being worked out as concisely as practicable. Most of the questioners are chiefly interested in the markets for perishables that now form such a large part of the daily food supply of many cities. So it is regarding terminal wholesale markets for fruits and vegetables that the Department is making specific suggestions. A recent study of 101 markets in 40 cities, including a close investigation of several, is the immediate basis for these statements, but they are colored by much meditation, based on years of experience and observation.

"Taking a leaf from other professions, the Department passes over the list of Don'tsin favor of an outline of the important factors that must be considered in establishing a good terminal produce market. Most of the large city markets, at the height of the business period, shriek with the results of the things to be avoided. Recent nation-wide broadcasts, using transcriptions of some of these medleys of confusion, have brought these points home to citizens of smaller towns and to consumers who would never penetrate to the centers of these great markets. Here, therefore, we may consider the affirmative points. Assurance that they could be encompassed would encourage any program: (1) A good terminal produce market is complete..(2) A good terminal produce market is well located..(3) A good terminal produce market is well designed...(4) A good terminal produce market is constructed at reasonable cost...(5) Finally, the good terminal produce market is well-managed...."

**Distribution
of Produce**

Fresh fruit and vegetable distributors recently went on record approving the idea of Federal legislation which would enable them to reduce handling costs on their merchandise in congested markets, but recommended that any proposal be given careful study by all members of the industry before it is submitted to Congress. Members of the National League of Wholesale Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Distributors instructed officers of the association to work with the Department of Agriculture in drafting suitable legislation. (New York Times.)

**Pan American
Wild Life**

To organize a program of wild life conservation on a scale never before attempted, a Pan American conference of conservation leaders, the first of the kind, will be held within the next few months, probably in Washington this spring, it was announced recently at the annual meeting of the New York Zoological Society. W. Redmond Cross, president of the society asserted that war conditions abroad and the likelihood that war may destroy some animal refuges made the need for conservation in the Western Hemisphere all the more urgent. (New York Times.)

Senate Both Houses received from the President the report
Jan. 15 of the Secretary of Agriculture on plans for pink boll-
worm control, pursuant to Public No. 351, 76th Cong.;
ref. to Senate Com. on Agriculture and Forestry and House Com. on Agri-
culture. (H. Doc. 564.)

Both Houses received from the President a report showing expendi-
tures, obligations, and the status of funds appropriated by the Emer-
gency Relief Appropriation Acts of 1935-1939, including operations of
the Farm Security Administration; ref. to Senate Com. on Appropriations
and House Com. on Expenditures in Executive Departments.

Confirmed by unanimous consent the nomination of Albert G. Black
to be Governor of the Farm Credit Administration.

Received a letter from the Secretary of Agriculture favoring H.R.
7342, to extend authority to make Land Bank Commissioner loans; ref.
to Com. on Banking and Currency.

Passed:
House /H. R. 2728, to add certain lands to the Cleveland
Jan. 15 National Forest, Calif; H.R. 7342, to extend for two
years the time during which Land Bank Commissioner loans
may be made; S. 1955, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to
delegate certain regulatory functions. As passed the House this bill
does not provide for a Second Assistant Secretary of Agriculture but
authorizes delegation of regulatory functions to not more than two
Department employees not below the two top grades in the classified
civil service.

Special Joint Committee on Phosphate Resources reported H. J. Res.
425, to amend Public Resolution 112, 75th Cong., which created the Com-
mittee. (H. Rept. 1514.)

Mr. Vreeland, of N.J., resigned from the Committee on Civil
Service. On January 12 Mr. Clevenger, of Ohio was elected to the Com-
mittee on Agriculture.

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Conservation The prospect of immediate cash return for most
of Soils farmers who engage in scientific soil conservation, and
the probability of general profit as a result of this
work, were pictured in the annual report of the Soil Conservation Ser-
vice, by H. H. Bennett, director. Mr. Bennett cited a study made in
Southern and Southwestern Iowa, where he said "practically all farmers
stated that the program had increased the value of their farms, and the
average increase reported was \$5.44 an acre."

Soil erosion is costing the United States an estimated \$400,000,000
a year in soil depletion alone, according to Mr. Bennett, who added that
it had ruined or damaged severely 282,000,000 acres of farm and range
land, and became an active threat to another 775,000,000 acres. The ef-
fects of erosion, he emphasized, were felt to some degree on half of all
the land in the United States. (New York Times.)

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 13

Section 1

January 18, 1940

RECIPROCAL TRADE PACTS

Taking sharp issue with a contention that reciprocal trade agreements constituted a "share-our wealth" program, Henry F. Grady, Assistant Secretary of State, urged Congress yesterday to extend the executive power to negotiate the treaties. Using charts to buttress his arguments, Grady said that farmers had received millions of dollars of added income since the advent of the trade program.

He said the cattle producers' 1939 program was far higher than in 1932, before the reciprocity system started, despite cattle imports. He said that higher prices always attract imports and speculated that farmers preferred high prices and some imports to low prices and no imports. Dairymen, he declared, have 99.5 percent of the domestic market, asserting that "lamentations that the dairy market has been ruined" were unjustified. He went on to say that corn producers had 100 percent of the domestic market in 1937-38. Corn imports in 1936, he said, were attributable to a shortage caused by the drought. (A.P.)

INDEPENDENT OFFICES BILL

The House yesterday followed in the footsteps of its appropriations committee by striking from the billion-dollar independent offices appropriation bill funds for one more agency, at a saving of \$25,040, says John B. Oakes, Washington Post staff writer. Third Presidentially sponsored bureau to be stricken from the measure, the Council of Personnel Administration was removed on the grounds that it has no specific legislative authorization. The other two agencies--National Resources Planning Board and Office of Government Reports--had been knocked out in committee for the same reason.

TOBACCO IMPORTS

British tobacco manufacturers, responding to government decree, last night were stated to have stopped the importation of American tobacco, according to an Associated Press report from London. They were reported to have enough in stock for a normal two-and-a-half-year demand, and likely to use Turkish or Balkan tobaccos to blend with these stocks. Most of the tobacco imported by Britain is Virginia-grown. She took about \$70,300,000 worth of American-grown tobacco in 1937.

1940 Farm
Census

The 1940 Farm Census schedule, says A. W. von Struve, of the Census Bureau, in Dakota Farmer (January 13) "was designed to provide for all important crops from one end of the country to the other and for those which give promise of being important in the future...It has been the aim of those preparing the schedule to do more than show an inventory of farm resources -- they hoped to supply answers to some of the economic complexes which face agriculture in this country. The results have a bearing upon the life of practically every citizen, and the agriculture census has been of essential assistance in formulating plans for crop allotment, conservation, soil erosion, and whatever legislation has to do with farming. It is the basis for crop adjustments by the individual farmers to avoid low prices of over-production, while it points the way to newer and broader markets for his products. The schedule, which meant months of study and research, goes beyond an inventory of property, crops and livestock, and is destined to throw some light on the economic and social status of farming as an industry. The draft recommended was approved after many conferences with an Advisory Board of progressive, active farmers, representatives of the leading farm associations, members of the staff of the foremost farm journals, and leading farm economists..."

Herty Forest
Institute

In memory of the late Dr. Charles H. Herty, distinguished scientist, the campaign to found the Herty Forest Institute in Georgia received impetus this week as State leaders and organizations joined in a "Doctor Herty Week" observance. The observance will be marked by the dedication today of two model demonstration forests in honor of the scientist who discovered a process of making white paper from southern pines. The proposed Herty Forest Institute will be located at Waycross, in the heart of a vast forest section. (New York Times.)

Certificate
Plan Urged

M. W. Thatcher of St. Paul, chairman of the national legislative committee of the Farmers Union, recently carried to President Roosevelt the organization's contention that farmers should receive parity prices through the medium of an income certificate plan. The plan.....
.....is designed to bridge the gap between actual farm prices and those which would give farmers the equivalent of their purchasing power before the World War. (Associated Press.)

Dr. Mohler
Appointed

Dr. John R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, has been appointed chairman of the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 1940 convention of the American Veterinary Medical Association, according to Dr. Cassius Way, president of the association. Dr. Way also revealed Dr. Mohler has been made a member of the special Committee on the Twelfth Veterinary Congress Prize. The association will hold its convention in Washington August 26-30. (Press.)

Department
Programs

Secretary Wallace, in his special information series for Department employees, says the following changes will take effect in 1940 in the action programs:

(1) The Soil Conservation Service will continue to expand its services to individual farmers through technical guidance by working closely with supervisors of soil conservation districts and with AAA committeemen, and Farm Security Administration supervisors who help individual farmers draw up management plans for their farms...The Service is lending graders, tractors, terracers, and other implements, and helping to supply needed materials to farmers in locally organized soil conservation districts;

(2) The Agricultural Adjustment Administration in the 1940 program will encourage desirable practices not in general use. To do this within the limits of available funds it is necessary to reduce the amount of payment which may be earned for common conservation practices such as seedings of grasses and legumes in order to make money available for practices not normally used. Farmers on small farms will now be able to earn a minimum conservation payment of 20 dollars and any farmer in addition to his other practices can earn 30 dollars by planting forest trees...;

(3) Farm Security Administration supervisors, in working out management plans with borrowers, will give special attention to needed soil conservation practices and crop diversification. No loan will be made for one-crop farming. Increased effort will be made to help borrowers obtain better and longer term written leases which will increase security and provide greater incentive to conserve soil resources. Increased effort will be made to help farmers enlarge their units sufficiently for profitable production...;

(4) The Forest Service, through its forest supervisors, will utilize the help of the Farm Security Administration and the Soil Conservation Service in improving conditions for families on national forest lands. Thus the conservation of human resources becomes a part of the regular and expanding efforts on National Forest lands;

(5) The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has undertaken the task of national leadership in the development of a cooperative land-use planning program which combines the benefits of the experience of farmers with the special information of the land-grant colleges, experiment stations, and the Department;

(6) The Extension Service has undertaken the task of helping to coordinate the efforts of the Department and the land-grant colleges, experiment stations, county agents, and farmers in order to develop coordinated plans locally and for the Nation.

100-Year
Society

The Department Library recently received Volume 100, Part II (November) of the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. The year 1939 was

its centenary.

House Began general debate on the independent offices
Jan. 16 appropriation bill. H. R. 7922, which was reported
 from the Appropriations Committee (H. Rept. 1515). The
following is from the committee report on this bill:

Administrative promotions. The committee has decided to eliminate all Budget increases for administrative promotions, but lapses available for this purpose are estimated as "at least equal to the amount so used in this fiscal year." The committee recommends use of the Budget Bureau's formula in making administrative promotions.

Personnel management. "The committee have adopted a uniform policy of elimination of all new funds" for personal management.

Buildings; furniture. Since no law clearly authorizes the Public Buildings Administration "to control space in a building....erected for a specific purpose" or to control "surplus furniture", the committee recommends a study of this subject.

Budget Bureau. A \$141,320 increase is provided for "an investigative staff....to go into the field and make a study at first hand of the various activities on which it must pass. Additional funds are also provided for studies of governmental organization, procedures, and methods of operation."

Resources; reports. Estimates for National Resources Planning Board and Office of Government Reports were eliminated because no basic law was found to authorize their existence.

Civil Service Commission. An increase of \$1,300,000 was approved "for....enabling it to render, as the central personnel agency...., a maximum of service."

Council of Personnel Administration. Recommended appropriations to "provide for the activity on practically the same basis as for the current year."

Building construction. "The Committee believe that the financial condition of the Treasury does not warrant the launching of a new building program in the District....at the present time." The \$800,000 item for a B.A.E. building (total cost, \$1,600,000) was eliminated.

Tennessee Valley Authority. Budget estimate of \$40,000,000 recommended by the committee.

Senate The following nomination was confirmed: Harry
Jan. 16 Slattery, Administrator of the Rural Electrification
 Administration.

Both Houses received a message from the President recommending a loan to Finland through the Export-Import Bank "to enable it to finance exportation of agricultural surpluses and manufactured products".

Adjourned until Thursday, January 18, when the calendar will be called.

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 14

Section 1

January 19, 1940

PRICES AND DEMAND

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported yesterday that an industrial downturn was expected in the first half of 1940, but that it was not likely to be prolonged or severe. Officials said commodity prices appeared to be "less vulnerable" than on some other occasions when the industrial situation was similar. They pointed out that commodity prices had failed to respond to the 1938-39 recovery in industrial activity and consumer income until the beginning of the war in Europe.

"Had the advance in general prices since August been superimposed upon a prolonged cumulative rise," they said, "the danger of a substantial relapse might be serious." The bureau said the domestic demand for farm products in the next few months might not be affected much by the downturn in industrial production, which apparently began, it said, in the latter part of December. (A.P.).

EXPORTS AND EXCHANGE OF COTTON

The Department of Agriculture reported yesterday that sales of cotton and cotton products under its export subsidy program amounted to 6,078,000 bales between August 1 and January 15. This total included sales of cotton products equivalent to 309,000 bales, but it did not include sales of 46,569 bales of cotton which had been canceled owing to war causes.

Secretary Wallace announced last night that shipments of surplus American cotton traded to Great Britain under the cotton-rubber exchange agreement would be withheld during February, March and April to relieve congested shipping conditions and permit commercial cotton to be shipped to the United Kingdom. This action will be taken, Mr. Wallace said, under an arrangement approved by the British Government. (A.P.).

NEWSPRINT, PULP SUPPLY

The first southern pine newsprint in history yesterday rolled out of the \$6,000,000 Southland Paper Mills plant erected at Lufkin, Texas, says an A.P. report. Ground was broken for construction of the plant a year ago.

An Atlanta report to the New York Times says that J. H. Allen, president of the Florida Pulp and Paper Company, declared yesterday that with the expansion of the pulp paper industry in the South improved forest management is necessary if a timber famine is to be averted. Mr. Allen, who is also president of the Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association, told paper mill executives and foresters from 11 Southern States that the association was trying to enforce a program of fire protection and selective cutting.

Science in
Sociology

Julian Huxley, author of "Science, Natural and Social," in the January Scientific Monthly, says:

"Voices are still raised proclaiming that social science is a contradiction in terms, that human affairs are not intrinsically amenable to the scientific method. Those who hold this opinion are, I believe, wrong. They are confusing the methods of natural science with scientific method in general. Social science differs inevitably from natural science in many important respects, notably in its lesser capacity for isolating problems, and more generally in its lesser degree of isolation from other aspects of human activity and its consequent greater entanglement with problems of value. It must therefore work out its own technique and its own methodology.

"Let us not forget that the working out of this technique and this methodology by natural science took a great deal of time and is indeed still progressing. During the growth of modern science, the amateur has been largely replaced by the professional; university laboratories have been supplemented by governmental and industrial institutions; whole-time research has become a new profession; the team has in many types of work replaced the individual; cooperative group work is beginning; and the large-scale planning of research is in the offing.

"Finally, the enormous growth of applied science has had effects of the utmost importance on pure research. It has done so partly by providing new instruments which would otherwise have been unavailable; one need only instance the gifts of the wireless industry not only to pure physics but to such unexpected branches of science as nervous physiology. And partly by suggesting new lines of research, the needs of wireless have again revealed new facts concerning the upper atmosphere, while the study of plant pests and human diseases has brought to light new modes of evolution.

"We need have no fear for the future of social science. It too will pass through similar phases from its present infancy. By the time that the profession of social science, pure and applied, includes as many men and women as are now engaged in natural science, it will have solved its major problems, of new methods, and the results it has achieved will have altered the whole intellectual climate...."

Exports at

Preliminary figures on United States exports for 10-Year High December, the fourth month of the European war, show a total of \$358,000,000, the largest for a monthly figure since March, 1930, with more than half of the \$71,000,000 increase in December over November represented by increased shipments to Great Britain and France, the Department of Commerce has announced. The month's exports compared with totals of \$266,000,000 in December, 1938 and \$319,000,000 in December, 1937, the report revealed. (Press.)

Trends in Population Alarm over the trend toward lower birthrates was expressed by Prof. Raymond Pearl of the Johns Hopkins University in his presidential address before the American Statistical Association in Philadelphia in which he said people in the prime of life are contriving to throw off some of the burden of supporting young and old by having fewer children. The world's population, he said, increased nearly five-fold in the three centuries between roughly 1630 and 1930. This brought about present efforts to lessen crowding and discomfort, which now are showing results in lowered birthrate and increasing numbers of the old.

Analysing the United States' biggest population problems, and citing "such weird economic philosophies" as those currently associated with "ham and eggs" or "\$200 a month," Prof. Pearl said: "It is plain that the old folks, on the one hand, and the youngsters, on the other hand, by their own lusty bellowings and the supplementary skullduggery of their 'humanitarian' friends are ganging up, as the expressive phrase goes, on the half of the population that does the work, pays the bills and taxes, and in cold fact earns the livings for all."

Counting both young and old, the burden borne by the harassed section of the population between 15 and 50 years old, is actually not so great as it was a century ago, Prof. Pearl finds. In 1840 for every 1,000 persons of these ages there were 1,084 younger or older to be taken care of; in 1930, for each 1,000 of the "reproducer-worker phase of life" there were only 880 persons besides themselves to be cared for. (Science News Letter, January 13.)

Egg, Poultry Publication An editorial in American Egg & Poultry Review (January) says: "With this issue we introduce Volume 1 Number 1 of American Egg and Poultry Review, one of the triumvirate of monthly publications with which the forty-five year service to the poultry and dairy products fields of the former American Produce Review will be continued and expanded. This new monthly will strive to cater to the needs of those whose interests center in the business of producing, processing and distributing poultry, eggs and poultry products in a more specialized way than has been possible with American Produce Review, which concerned itself with milk and dairy products as well....Our regular weekly statistical presentation, including our widely-used estimates of the country's cold storage reserves of poultry and dairy products, will be concentrated and augmented in our regularly issued Special Weekly Report and in our daily Producers' Price-Current Subscription Edition...."

Trade Bars Striking at the evil of trade barriers erected by various States against each other the Joint Legislative Committee on Interstate Cooperation, representing New York and Pennsylvania, recently adopted a resolution assailing trade barriers as "destructive of the free intercourse of commerce guaranteed under the constitution of the United States." (New York Times.)

House Independent offices appropriation bill. The
Jan. 17 \$600,000 item for Electric Home and Farm Authority
was stricken on a point of order by Mr. Case of S.D.
Mr. Ramspeck spoke in favor of the civil-service system, including
several articles on the subject.

Committee hearings: H. R. 6652, to aid consumers by setting up
standards of quality.....January 23; H. R. 7891, to assist the
States in the improvement of highways, January. 22.

The Senate was not in session.

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Cooperation The Florida Times Union, in an editorial on re-
in Farming search in agriculture, says that "one phase of the
farm-improvement program that ties in with that of
research, and which is bringing good results, is that of county
planning committees, which have been organized during the last year
by extension service agents....The purpose is the coordination of
county plans by farm people and representatives of land use agencies
in the States. The result is that in at least one county in every
State unified programs based on the recommendations of the local
planning committees are under way.

"Backing up these efforts are more than a million organized farm
women, working under the leadership of home demonstration agents. They
see in county planning a chance to realize some of their ambitions --
better living and better agriculture. Add to these efforts those of
the million and a quarter 4-H Club members -- both girls and boys --
whose activities have to do with educational, social, and recreational
opportunities; the improvement of farming methods and products, and a
rather complete picture is given of what is being done toward improv-
ing rural conditions in America. The outlook that is presented is one
that offers encouragement for the future -- a future that should hold
more of the young people to the soil. (PPS-28.)

Grain Rate The Interstate Commerce Commission examiners re-
Change Urged cently recommended important revisions of freight rates
on grain and grain products moving to and within the
Southeast with a view to restoring rate relationships which existed
prior to July 1935, says a United Press Report. The examiners, Arthur
R. Mackley and George J. Hall, made their recommendations in a re-
port covering a number of cases involving grain rates which had been
consolidated for study. The recommendations are subject to I.C.C. re-
view. They recommended revision of rates within the Southeast which
would result in local rates on the basis of tenth class, with less-
than-carload rates uniformly five cents higher than the carload rates.
Proportional rates from Ohio and Mississippi River gateways less than
the local rates were recommended. (PPS-33.)

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 15

Section 1

January 22, 1940

TRADE WITH BRITAIN

Administration officials are watching with growing concern British restrictions that threaten to deprive American farmers of export markets upon which they are dependent for economic security, according to an Associated Press report. In her effort to defeat Germany, Britain not only has shut American agricultural products out of German markets, through use of the naval blockade, but is closing the doors of her own markets.

Behind the British action is a desire to conserve foreign exchange in this country for purchase of war materials and to strengthen economic and political ties with Allied and friendly nations in Europe and with Empire countries by obtaining farm products from them. The British trade program has hit hardest American producers of tobacco, cotton, wheat and fruits.

RAIN SAVES CITRUS CROP

Rain falling on the lower Rio Grande Valley has reduced to a minimum the damage to its \$100,000,000 citrus fruit crop from last week's freezing weather, says a Brownsville (Texas) report to the New York Times. A check indicated that the major part of this year's crop will come through the two days of freezing weather without much damage. Injury to trees will be to tender shoots, probably reducing next year's crop.

REPORT LAUDS TRADE PACTS

The reciprocal trade agreements program has received support from a study of its effects on trade by the Department of Commerce. The study indicates that the first 11 months of 1939 showed a 5 percent gain in American shipments to trade-agreement countries, as compared with the corresponding period of 1938, while exports to non-agreement nations declined by 8 percent.

Imports from trade-agreement countries in the same period increased 17 1/2 percent and from non-agreement countries 13 percent. These totals do not include the United Kingdom, Newfoundland and the British crown colonies, since they were first included among agreement countries in 1939.

QUALITY OF CORN CROP

Harvest of the 1939 corn crop brought in grain of the best quality in many years, the Agricultural Marketing Service reports. The service bases its report upon inspection records of more than 10,000 carloads of corn received at terminal markets.

Book by C.S.S. reviews "Soil Conservation" by H. H. Bennett, SCS Chief chief of the Soil Conservation Service, in the Journal of the American Society of Agronomy (January). "For more than thirty years Hugh Hammond Bennett has been a persistent champion of soil conservation," says the reviewer. "Here at long last is a book from his pen sufficiently broad in scope to represent in technical literature the personal achievements of the author. But the book is in no sense an autobiography. Against a background of the history of soil destruction in the United States and the world, it presents a wealth of factual information...One finds descriptions of specific problem areas, within the confines of which there are characteristic conditions of soil erosion and land use. This geographic analysis of the national problem should direct the attention of readers to the necessity of specific knowledge in the application of control or regulatory measures...The book is attractive in appearance, on good paper, profusely and well illustrated." (The publisher is the McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York.)

Food Stamp Program In the National Municipal Review (January) Harold S. Rand, of the University of Rochester and the Rochester Bureau of Municipal Research, writes on the food stamp plan. Discussing community benefits from the plan, he says: "The food stamp plan means turnover of money. The cash relief check in the hand of the welfare client increases its food purchasing value. The increased food purchasing value goes to the grocer and then goes to the wholesaler. The triple turnover of the blue stamp money value alone means just so much more money in circulation within the community. Already the position of the small grocer has improved in many instances. Under this plan he can meet his bills more promptly.

"There is the other side of the picture, of course. The stamp plan automatically increases all relief budgets from one-quarter to one-third. Careful family budgeting can make the surplus foods care for a large part of the food items. The regular budget can then be stretched to include items not allowed in the regular relief budget. The retail trade benefits, but the municipality and its taxpayers not at all. Welfare costs are the most important item before the city administration at all times. It, too, would like to have its income augmented or its expenses curtailed.

"The administrative difficulties in the food stamp plan such as the rush periods of purchasing, chiseling, demand for service fees, and the rest can easily be adjusted. The old system of distributing surplus foods cannot be compared to the food stamp plan. The question, though, is how will the citizenry look upon a plan which benefits certain definite groups and also increases administrative costs?"

Crop Insurance One out of every four farmers who insured their 1939 wheat production under the federal "all-risk" insurance program has received an indemnity to make up for unavoidable crop loss. (Agricultural Situation, January.)

Migration to Northwest "In the past five years, close to 200,000 refugees from the drouth areas of the Prairie States have migrated to the Pacific Northwest," says Frank J. Taylor, in American Mercury (February). "Few are asking relief. Most of those who have been in the Northwest for two years or more have realized their dream of a plot of ground, a vegetable garden, a cow and some chickens... The Farm Placement Service for Oregon, supported jointly by the federal government and the states, tries to keep newcomers from wasting time and gasoline in aimless job hunts (as do the Services in other states). It maintains regional employment offices where the farmers phone in for workers and the workers check in for leads on jobs--21 such offices in Oregon, 14 in Washington, 12 in Idaho... Pacific Northwest migrants come in three distinct streams. One flows from the northern prairie states, bringing mainly Dakotans, who make up almost one-fourth of the total. Another, with Nebraskans, Coloradans, and Kansans, follows the old Oregon Trail from Salt Lake. The third tide moves in from California... Most of the Dakotans, Nebraskans, Coloradans, Kansans are taking root in the Northwest..."

Temperature Needs of Dairy Cattle J. R. Rice, North Dakota Agricultural College, writing in the Journal of Dairy Science (January) says that "the idea that dairy cows receiving an adequate ration need to be kept in a warm barn to be comfortable seems to be an assumption rather than a fact." Studies at the college, he says, show that "provided dairy cows receive an adequate ration, have shelter from the wind, snow or rain and have a dry place to bed down, they can withstand exposure to cold temperature, they can produce practically the same in a cold stable as they will in a stable where the temperature is about 50 degrees F.

"Milk cows on full feed, when housed in a cold stable produce sufficient surplus heat over usual maintenance requirements to maintain body temperatures without using nutrients for that purpose. Cows housed in a cold shed require if anything somewhat less protein and total digestible nutrients for milk and butterfat production than other cows or the same cows when kept in a standard dairy barn. Cows in the cold shed tend to gain somewhat more body weight than the cows in the dairy barn. The comfort and convenience of the caretaker and the protection of watering systems rather than the need of the cows justify the use of stables that are common today."

Liquid Sugar from Corn The Prairie Farmer (January 13) contains a short article on a new liquid sugar from corn. "It is said to be twice as sweet as corn sugar, three times as fluid, non-crystallizing and low in cost," says the publication. "The process is, in general, a modification of the ordinary method of producing corn syrup." The plant manufacturing this syrup is in Decatur, Illinois, and mills around 60,000 bushels of corn daily.

House Independent offices appropriation bill. Passed
Jan. 18 this bill, H. R. 7922. Agreed to clarifying amendments
by Mr. Woodrum to a provision limiting administrative
promotions under this bill to the Budget estimates. Amendments by Mr.
Dirksen, Mr. Faddis, and Mr. Case of S.D., to reduce the \$40,000,000
T.V.A. item, were defeated. Agreed to an amendment by Mr. Van Zandt
prohibiting hospitalization of non-veterans by the Veterans Administra-
tion "unless a reciprocal schedule of pay is in effect with the agency
or department involved."

Received from the President drafts of proposed provisions pertaining
to appropriations for this Department; to Com. on Appropriations. "For
the disposal of surplus commodities, Department of Agriculture, fiscal
year 1940 (H. Doc. 569)"; and "To permit the use of funds provided for
the fiscal year 1940 'Parity payments' to make payments under the Price
Adjustment Act of 1938" (H. Doc. 570).

Adjourned until Monday, January 22.

Senate Confirmed by unanimous consent the nomination of
Jan. 18 Harry Slattery to be Administrator of the Rural Electri-
fication Administration.

Bills passed: H. R. 7293, to make permissive the
acquisition of legislative jurisdiction over land or interest in land
acquired by the United States. This bill will now be sent to the
President. S. 1935, to amend the Bankruptcy Act, which contains a pro-
vision extending for 4 years the Frazier-Lenke Act.

On request of Mr. Bankhead, H. R. 7342, to amend the Emergency
Farm Mortgage Act of 1933 so as to continue authority for Land Bank
Commissioner loans, was taken from the Committee on Agriculture and
Forestry and referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

At request of Mr. George, S. 107, opposing sales of American
cotton during the present world crisis to foreign purchasers below
cost of production, was indefinitely postponed.

Passed H. R. 7171, to amend section 22 of the Agricultural Ad-
justment Act with regard to control of imports of farm products. This
bill will now be sent to the President.

Received from the Interior Department proposed legislation to
adjust the boundaries of the Cedar Breaks National Monument and the
Dixie National Forest, Utah; ref. Com. on Public Lands and Surveys.

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported
Jan. 19 with amendment S. J. Res. 194, authorizing the
Secretary of Agriculture to study a tract of forest
land in Lincoln County, Oregon. The House was not in session.
(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 16

Section 1

January 23, 1940

SEAWAY TREATY

Negotiations were begun in Washington yesterday by delegations of the United States and Canada for a treaty to govern the development of the St. Lawrence River as a navigation and hydroelectric project. It is planned to conclude the discussion in three days so that they may be submitted to the United States Senate in ample time for its approval at this session. The American group was headed by A. A. Berle, Jr., assistant secretary of state, and the Canadian delegation by O. D. Skelton, under secretary of state for external affairs. (New York Times.)

RAIL RATE PETITION

Five midwestern states petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission yesterday to reconsider its recent decision in the North-South freight rate case. The states were Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. The commission ordered lower rates effective February 1 on a dozen manufactured articles moving from southern producing areas into the North. (Washington Post.)

EGG PRICES STRENGTHEN

The strong demand that developed in the egg market last week as a result of sub-zero weather persisted yesterday and lifted futures prices at Chicago more than 1 1/2 cents a dozen, says an Associated Press report. Refrigerator egg contracts for January delivery soared 160 points to 19.10 cents a dozen, highest paid for a reserve contract since last July. Profit-taking sales pared prices a cent, but the close was at a net advance of 140 points. January fresh graded firsts finished with a net gain of 105 points at 22.05 cents.

J. W. SMITH DECEASED

John W. Smith, government meteorologist for 50 years and chief of the Boston Weather Bureau for 37 years until 1924, died day before yesterday of pneumonia at Cambridge, Massachusetts. His age was 87. Mr. Smith devised apparatus and methods, some of which were patented, for improving the service of the Weather Bureau, chief of which was the millograph, a printing device employing a stencil process. He also introduced an electric storm-warning lantern. (New York Times.)

Truck Line Proposed "Large-scale vegetable growers and shippers in California and Arizona may soon establish their own transcontinental refrigerated truck lines to haul produce to eastern markets," reports Business Week (January 20). "Cost studies by the Western Growers' Protective Association, Los Angeles, are said to indicate a co-operative highway service is economically feasible. Western growers, 2,000 or 3,000 miles from their customers, long have envied their eastern competitors who have had the advantage of low rail rates or of trucking into nearby large cities. Also, according to the westerners, smaller cities are not adequately served in their produce needs and any grower truck system that might be established probably would include lateral distribution as well as direct delivery... Advisability of making the system available to the public on return trips (thus coming under the ICC regulation and rates) or of transporting owned merchandise on the back haul is also being studied...."

Slaughter Supplies Slaughter supplies of livestock this year will be materially larger than in 1939, with most of the increase in hogs and grain-fed cattle, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has reported. Consumer demand for meats in 1940 probably will average stronger than last year, but it may decline somewhat from present levels during the first half of this year, the BAE said, adding that the upward trend in hog production which began in early 1938 apparently will be checked this year. Present indications are that the 1940 pig crop will be smaller than a year ago and that slaughter supplies of hogs in the 1940-41 marketing season will be smaller than in 1939-40, the Bureau said. (Wall Street Journal, January 22.)

Economic Farm Units "One of the constructive developments that has been taking place in Montana in recent years is the consolidation of farms too small to support a farm family into tracts of such size as to enable the operator to set up an efficient enterprise that will make the farm a going concern," says an editorial in the Montana Farmer. "Much land has moved out of the hands of insurance companies and mortgage companies during the last few years and into the hands of farmers whose land adjoins, or at least is located reasonably close to the abandoned tract. Much tax deed land has been leased or purchased by neighboring farmers. The acquisition of additional land in these ways has made dependable economic units out of many farms that were formerly too small to satisfactorily support the families that were trying to run them.... Six to eight bushel land will often support a farm family if it is operated efficiently in a large enough unit."

F. A. Silcox The Journal of Forestry (January) in an editorial on the late F. A. Silcox, says: "The Forest Service, at the time he became its chief, was the spearhead of the federal government's great conservation program. The Service was expanding its personnel, work projects for hundreds of Civilian Conservation Corps camps were being developed and supervised, and thousands of relief workers were being given employment in the nation's forests. Under his leadership the Forest Service geared itself to the biggest job in its history, and did it well. Mr. Silcox became a Senior member of the Society of American Foresters in 1907. In 1937 he was elected to the grade of Fellow, the highest distinction which may be conferred upon a forester by his professional colleagues. He had always taken a keen interest in Society and professional affairs, and participated actively in committee assignments....

"His socio-economic theories of forest conservation, his advocacy of public regulation of timber cutting, his championing of the rights of the 'have nots,' all brought violent opponents as well as loyal adherents. Yet the warmth of his personality, the brilliance of his mind in disputation, and the serenity of his disposition were such that many might disagree with him but none could dislike him. His contributions to the conservation movement were many. Especially significant was his success in focusing public attention on the conservation problems of private forest land ownership. In brief, it may be said that his whole professional career was devoted to the cause of integrating forestry with social progress and human welfare."

Forest Federal and State aid in solving problems of
Problems private forest-land owners is proposed as one way to
 safeguard such lands, in the annual report of the
late F. A. Silcox, Chief of the Forest Service. "Privately owned forest and problems facing private owners are major factors in the Nation's forest situation," he said. "Forest land of commercial timber-growing value is more than twenty times the area of Indiana. This is an empire of such social and economic importance that we no longer can afford to ignore it or leave it unmanaged without serious consequences for the entire Nation..." Merchantable standing timber in the United States has been reduced by about 1,000 billion board feet since 1910, he said, adding that if this were available now as growing stock, and treated as a crop, it would be capable of producing on a continuous basis one-half of all the saw timber cut in the United States in 1936. Three-fourths of all commercially valuable forest land is privately owned.

Farmers, who own 130 million acres of commercial forest land, have the same problems as most industrial owners, and also special problems. "One is that forest ownership is more widely distributed

among farmers and individual ownership is generally in smaller tracts. Pressure to cut farm forests for cash to buy food and clothing is greater. Most farmers grade, price, and manufacture forest products less effectively than larger industrial forest owners; and it is more difficult for the small owner to locate and keep profitable markets."

Charging that the public starts 75 percent or more of all forest fires, and stating that without adequate fire protection "new forests may not be established or brought to harvest, and labor may not have forest industry jobs," the Forest Chief declared that immediate extension of forest fire control is needed. Nearly two-thirds of the fires reported on private lands are on lands which are still outside of organized protection districts.

Marketing Marketing agreements, which helped improve the
Agreements incomes of about 1,300,000 farmers during the year
 that ended last June 30, have passed the experimental
stage and are taking their place as part of farmers' regular marketing
machinery, Milo Perkins, in charge of surplus removal and marketing
agreement programs, said in his annual report. Inauguration of the
Food Stamp Plan and the Supreme Court's decisions upholding the
validity of Federal milk market regulation under the Agricultural
Marketing Act of 1937 were listed by Mr. Perkins as among the most sig-
nificant developments in marketing activities during the year. More
than 40 marketing agreement programs were in effect to regulate the
handling of a wide range of agricultural commodities including milk
and dairy products, fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Other activities
dealing with farm surpluses included the wheat and flour export pro-
grams, cotton export program, butter market stabilization program, and
programs to encourage wider uses for cotton and other agricultural
commodities.

Cooperative The American consumer cooperative movement can
Movement list 1939 as its greatest year of progress, Wallace
 J. Campbell, assistant secretary of the Cooperative
League of the United States of America, has announced. By the end of
the year, he said, more than 2,000,000 consumers were members of co-
operatives doing a total annual business estimated at \$600,000,000.
Among the accomplishments of the year, he listed several important
steps including the addition of new productive facilities, expansion
of cooperative activities from farm to general household supplies, and
increased support from labor and farm organizations. Distribution of
farm supplies, a field in which coops are strongest, continued to grow.
(The Northwestern Miller, January. 17.)

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 17

Section 1

January 24, 1940

U.S. TRADE WITH JAPAN

The United States told Japan in effect yesterday that continuance of commercial relations between the two countries soon will depend on Japan's conduct in the Far East, says a report in the Washington Post. This Government declined to exchange notes with Tokyo as a basis for temporary trade relations after the 1911 treaty between the two nations, denounced by this country six months ago, expires Friday.

In addition, the many Japanese businessmen now living in the United States as "treaty merchants," in order to remain here, must qualify as visitors temporarily admitted under the immigration laws. These points were made clear to Japanese Ambassador Kensuke Horinouchi by Assistant Secretary of State Berle in a conference at the State Department.

COTTON MARKET, 1939 GINNINGS

A wave of foreign and domestic selling engulfed the cotton futures market in New York yesterday. Prices were driven down to final losses of 30 to 40 points. A break in foreign markets--notably Bombay and Liverpool--was the main clue to the decline, brokers said.

The Census Bureau reported yesterday that cotton of 1939 growth ginned to January 16 totaled 11,404,924 running bales, counting round bales, as half bales and excluding linters. Ginnings were 11,552,913 bales to January 16 a year ago and 16,644,208 bales two years ago. (A.P.)

FRESH FRUIT SUPPLIES

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has predicted that reduced export demand would make domestic fresh fruit supplies as large in the first half of 1940 as in the first half of 1939. Consumer purchasing power, however, might be "somewhat improved over the preceding season," the bureau said. (.A.P.)

CANADIAN WHEAT EXPORTS

An Ottawa report by the Associated Press says that Canada, having granted Finland a \$100,000 credit for food-stuff purchases, considered yesterday placing wheat exports under government control following a protest in the Ontario Legislature on the reported sale of 1,000,000 bushels of wheat to Soviet Russia. Prime Minister Mackenzie King said the \$100,000 credit had been granted last Thursday by orders-in-council.

Workers "More than 450 persons are actively engaged in or
in Home directing home economics research in the United States,"
Economics says Mary A. Grimes, formerly of the American Home
 Economics Association, in the January issue of the
Journal. "This figure is based on information received from a ques-
tionnaire sent to 86 colleges, universities, and government agencies
by the research department of the Association....The 450 included
only persons engaged in research in approximately 75 of the colleges,
universities, and government agencies in the United States or its
possessions. Three were working under commercial auspices -- only a
small proportion of the home economists known to be conducting research
for business firms. Fifteen of the 450 persons were men....As might be
expected, more of the workers, 202, were engaged in the food and nutri-
tion field than in any other. Next in number came family economics
with 66, followed closely by textiles and clothing with 60....The re-
search department has drawn up a classified list of these 450 home
economics research workers, which shows the growth of this professional
activity, the fields included, and the distribution of workers among
different ones...."

Laurel Starch The nation's first plant making starch from sweet
Plant Expands potatoes (Laurel, Miss.) reports steady growth and in
 1940 expects to turn out 3,400,000 pounds of starch, in
an enterprise which gives farmers a new source of income and adds to
the pay rolls of the territory, says a special report to the Dallas
Morning News. Starch output was 2,500,000 pounds in 1939 and 1,500,000
in 1938, an indication of the success of this agricultural-industrial
tie-up, W. R. Richee, manager of the plant, announces. Along with
the year-by-year increase in the plant's starch production has come an
increase in yield of potatoes by farmers cooperating with the plant.
In 1934, first year of the plant's operation, the yield was only 88
bushels to the acre. This year the average was better than 200 bushels.
Several contractors have been paid at the rate of twelve tons to the
acre, or \$120 gross per acre. Average yield in 1937 was 138 bushels
to the acre.

New Swine Swine history of a new kind is being made by a
Registry purebred Hampshire sow in Guy McReynold's herd, Ashland,
 Nebraska. The sow is the first of any breed ever to be
admitted to a Registry of Merit based upon high practical pork-raising
requirements. This registry of Merit was adopted by the Hampshire
Swine Record Association a year ago last November. To be admitted,
the McReynold's sow had to qualify two litters, both of which were re-
quired to measure up to farrowing and weaning time weight standards estab-
lished by the association. The sow and her litters also had to pass com-
mittee inspection for type. A boar gets in by siring five daughters
that have been admitted. (Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife, February.)

Sugar Cane
Harvester

Facts About Sugar (January) reports on tests in Hawaii of the Falkiner sugar cane harvester. "The general conclusion from these Hawaiian tests," it says, "is that the Falkiner harvester has a place on Hawaiian plantations producing around fifty tons of cane per acre, on land that is not too steep, and where the culture is more or less flat. Various obvious improvements are suggested by these tests. Operating costs can be reduced by substituting Diesel power for the two gasoline engines now used to drive the machine, and by mounting it on pneumatic tires. The present weight, seventeen tons, might be reduced to ten tons by a re-design. The opinion has been expressed that, while these changes in design will require new capital expense, there are close to a million tons of cane in Hawaii alone that could be cut by a harvester of this general type."

Grasshopper
Egg Survey

Grasshoppers are a much less serious crop threat this year than in 1939 or 1938, according to Dr. Lee A. Strong, Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Nevertheless, enough hoppers will hatch in many parts of the Great Plains to do a great deal of damage, unless adverse weather or control measures stop them. The recently completed grasshopper egg survey shows a marked decrease in hopper numbers and a shift in the areas of infestation away from those where Federal-State control operations were conducted last year. Doctor Strong ascribes this largely to the control campaign of 1939. The control work of the coming season will be directed against the migratory hoppers expected to hatch in large numbers from eggs laid last fall in range, idle, and abandoned land in the Great Plains.

The migratory long-winged grasshopper, capable of flying long distances, is expected to appear in comparatively small areas in the States where it was numerous in 1939 — southeastern Colorado, northeastern New Mexico, northwestern Texas, and western Oklahoma. The lesser migratory grasshopper — another strong flier — is expected in threatening numbers in wide areas of northeastern Colorado, western Nebraska, and western South Dakota, mostly far from the places where control operations were conducted last year. The lesser migratory grasshoppers are intermingled with non-migratory hoppers in crop lands of the Red River Valley in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota, as well as in some parts of western Kansas.

The cooperating State agencies estimate that crops valued at \$128,000,000 were saved by the work of last season which cost \$2,500,000, exclusive of labor and other contributed assistance. More than 153,000 tons of poison bait were spread over about 25 million acres in 24 States, through the cooperative efforts of the Department, the States, local agencies and 235,000 farmers.

Farmers' Cooperatives "Ten thousand seven hundred farmers' marketing and purchasing cooperatives were in business during the 1938-39 marketing season just closed," says R. H. Elsworth, Agricultural Economist, Farm Credit Administration, in News for Farmer Cooperatives (January). "These enterprises had a total membership of 3,300,000 and transacted business amounting to \$2,100,000,000. More than one-half of the associations, with nearly 60 percent of the membership and 53 percent of the total business, were in the 12 North Central States. About 10 percent of the associations were in the South Central States, a slightly larger number were in the Atlantic Coast States, and 14 percent of the organizations were in the Western States. In both the Atlantic Coast and Western States the cooperatives transacted a larger portion of the total business than their number would suggest. The leadership of the North Central States rests largely upon local associations, which own and operate facilities for receiving and shipping grain, for making and marketing butter and cheese, and for shipping livestock to the terminal markets. In this area cooperative sales agencies for receiving and selling grain and livestock have been developing in the terminal markets....

"From a dollar standpoint, the associations handling dairy products are the most important of the commodity groups. Their sales during the past year were \$610,000,000. Following the dairy group were the grain cooperatives with an estimated business of \$383,000,000; 862 livestock cooperatives with sales of \$280,000,000; 1,116 active fruit and vegetable associations with sales of \$273,000,000; and 180 poultry and egg cooperatives with sales of \$78,000,000. A group that is slowly working into a position of importance includes the organizations engaged in the cooperative purchase of farm supplies. This group is now first in number of associations and in membership. Its gross business for last year was \$335,000,000. It should be noted, however, that part of the business reported by the marketing cooperatives represents the sale of farm supplies, a side-line activity, and that purchasing cooperatives marketed for their members farm products such as poultry, eggs, cream, seeds, etc. After making proper adjustments, the marketing activities of the 10,700 associations amounted to \$1,684,000,000 and the purchasing activities to \$416,000,000...."

Milk; Cream Consumption of fluid milk and cream is increasing, following the improvement in business employment and pay-rolls, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has reported. Milk production on January 1 was about 2 percent above the previous high for that date, but even with this increase in production, the total output of principal manufactured dairy products is somewhat below the peak for this season of the year. These factors, together with the general rise in commodity prices, have greatly strengthened the prices of manufactured dairy products.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 18

Section 1

January 25, 1940

WEATHER STATIONS

D. M. Little, chief of the aerological division of the Weather Bureau, yesterday told the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences at Columbia University that at least five permanent weather stations in mid-Atlantic were necessary for safe flying to Europe. The stations he proposed would be permanently moored ships. He declared they should be spaced in order of importance: Two at equal intervals between Bermuda and Horta, Azores, one at a point 37 North Latitude and 40 West Longitude, another between the Azores and Lisbon, Portugal, and the fifth at Longitude 25 West and Latitude 38 North, both points just north of the Great Circle Course between New York and Europe. (New York Times.)

INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT

"A program of Government cooperation with industry, patterned along the lines of the AAA, and having as its purpose a concerted reduction in prices and expansion of output, was proposed before the Monopoly Committee yesterday by Mordecai Ezekiel, Agriculture Department economic adviser," reports Felix Cotten, Washington Post staff writer. "He presented the plan as an alternative to public ownership or control of industry. It is a means, he said, whereby concerted action of industry as a whole can be attained through democratic processes and without resort to socialism or fascism..."

EGG FUTURES AT YEAR HIGH

Cold weather forecasts yesterday helped lift egg futures prices at Chicago to their highest levels in more than a year. Contracts for January delivery of refrigerator eggs advanced 1 1/2 cents to 22 cents a dozen at the opening on the Mercantile Exchange, reaching the highest price paid for a storage delivery in more than a year. Fresh graded firsts for delivery in the current month were up 2 cents a dozen to 24 1/2 cents, a 3-year peak for the contract. (A.P.)

CANADIAN WHEAT BAR

Canada has forbidden exports of wheat and other materials to Germany's bordering neighbors except by license, says an Ottawa report by the Associated Press. The decision was said by the office of Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King to make it possible now to prevent shipment of 1,250,000 bushels of wheat bought recently for Soviet Russia.

Paper Milk Containers Widespread acceptance of paper containers for milk and milk products no longer depends solely on whether they will meet rigid sanitary standards -- because numerous tests have proved that the average container on the market today can meet them easily -- but on whether economies are effected by their use. These facts were brought out in a report of the Milk and Milk Products Committee of the American Public Health Association on the "Sanitary Aspects of Packaging Milk and Milk Products," presented recently at the annual meeting of the Association. The increased use of paper milk containers (it has been estimated that more than 1,500,000 are used daily) has been responsible for the development of methods to insure their sanitary quality. Paper manufacturers have established, the report said, an Institute at the New York Experiment Station, Geneva, for the purpose of studying the sanitary condition of paper stock used for milk containers. (Southern Dairy Products Journal, January.)

New Mix for Ice Cream "A new commercially prepared ice-cream mix suitable for home consumption is the result of a process worked out by W. J. Corbett and P. H. Tracy of the department of dairy manufactures at the University of Illinois," says F. J. Keilholz, extension editor of the University, in Country Gentleman (February). "Possibilities for this new product rise from the fact that there are many housewives who prefer to make their own frozen desserts, even though vast improvements have been made in the manufacturing and merchandising of ice cream during recent years....Corbett and Tracy succeeded in developing a method for processing and sterilizing an ice-cream mix which gives promise of meeting a real need in the industry.

"Most satisfactory results were obtained from a mix containing 12 per cent fat, 9 per cent serum solids and 14.5 per cent sugar. Their results indicated that the total solids must be limited to 36 per cent and the serum solids to 9 per cent. They used fresh, high-quality dairy products. Mixes which had been flavored with caramel, maple, raspberry, chocolate, lemon, orange and pistachio were successfully sterilized. There undoubtedly are other flavors which can be used in a sterilized mix, but these are especially recommended. Mixes properly flavored and sterilized will have only a slightly cooked flavor."

Insurance for Patents An insurance corporation of Chicago has announced a new type of insurance policy to be issued as protection against losses arising from patent litigation and infringement, says a report in the New York Times. This is the first time that insurance has been extended to the patent field, Robert E. Kenyon, president of the corporation, stated. Before a patented profit, device or process is placed upon the market, the corporation will issue a policy which will protect the firm against losses resulting from infringement suits, decrees, awards, judgments and other hazards.

Food Trade
Barriers

Interstate trade barriers, according to an editorial in the New York Journal of Commerce, "are causing particular concern in the food industry where such restrictions have become common." "Paradoxically enough," it continues, "a number of the artificial barriers to the interstate movement of food products have first been imposed by States which sell a very large part of their own produce elsewhere. Thus, California fruits and vegetables are now sold practically in every State of the Union. Yet California has adopted a packaging restriction which virtually bars the sale within California of berries grown in other States, even though such shipments are normally received only during the season of the year when there is little production in California.

"By now, a great mass of discriminatory taxes, port of entry fees and special levies on out-of-State motor trucks have been imposed in a large number of States to inhibit interstate commerce in foods. As a result, the movement of seasonal surpluses from producing to consuming areas is checked and the average level of prices paid by consumers is raised....The taxation of foods for revenue purposes or the establishment of reasonable quarantine regulations governing the importation of food products into a State are legitimate enough. But when taxes and regulations are utilized for the purpose of giving farmers artificial protection against the products of other States, they become an abuse which requires remedial action."

Casein
Plastics

"Few industries offer greater possibilities to the research chemist than the plastics industry," says George H. Brother, of the Department soybean laboratory, Urbana, Illinois. "The polymerization and condensation reactions which form the plastic resins are not only complicated and little understood, but in many cases the starting materials are of unknown structure. Therefore, since so little is known about plastic materials, it is surprising how widely they have been successfully applied in spite of this handicap. With more fundamental knowledge of their structures and properties available, more intelligent applications would be possible in present fields and probably in fields not as yet considered. This is especially true of casein plastics. Casein is a protein, a class of material that has baffled chemists since the time of Emil Fischer. However, there has been a change in the attitude of research chemists recently with the application of the x-ray, the infrared ray, the ultracentrifuge, the monomolecular film, etc., to the study of the structure of proteins. Preliminary results on the investigation of protein have already been obtained with these tools, which hold promise for the future of the whole class in general and for casein plastic material in particular...."(Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, January.)

Senate Began debate on H. R. 7805, emergency defense
Jan. 23 appropriation bill, which was reported with amendments
from the Committee on Appropriations (S. Rept. 1162).

As reported, this bill contains a provision making \$11,000,000 of the 1940 parity-payments appropriation available for expenditure in the same manner as the 1939 appropriation. (See also House proceedings.)

Committee on Banking and Currency reported without amendment H. R. 7342, to amend the Emergency Farm Mortgage Act of 1933 so as to continue authority for Land Bank Commissioner loans (S. Rept. 1164).

Committee to Audit and Control Contingent Expenses of Senate reported without amendment S. J. Res. 199, extending until January 15, 1941, the Special Committee to Investigate the Adequacy and Use of the Phosphate Resources.

Adjourned until Thursday, January 25.

House Committee on Appropriations reported without
Jan. 23 amendment H. J. Res. 434, making \$11,000,000 of the 1940 parity-payments appropriation available for expenditure in the same manner as the 1939 appropriation (H. Rept. 1527). (See also Senate proceedings.)

Committee on Appropriations reported H. R. 8067, urgent deficiency appropriation bill, 1940 (H. Rept. 1525). As reported, this bill contains no items for this Department. The Budget request for an amendment to the 1940 Agricultural Appropriation Act so as to make approximately \$1,400,000 more available for cotton export subsidy, was disallowed with the following comment: "The Committee does not recommend this change. It is legislative in character and seeks to modify a provision which was unanimously agreed upon and inserted in the regular appropriation bill at the last regular session."

Began general debate on H. R. 8068, Treasury-Post Office appropriation bill, which was reported from the Committee on Appropriations (H. Rept. 1526). As reported, the bill contains the usual provisions with regard to passenger-carrying vehicles, station-to-station transfers, purchase of typewriters, and transfers of funds to Treasury for services performed for several Agriculture bureaus. The bill also carries appropriations for the Procurement Division, provides for expenses of refunding processing taxes, and limits purchase of jute twine by the Post Office Department. The Committee has stricken out the Budget increases for administrative promotions and personnel management in these two departments, in accordance with its uniform policy previously announced.

Agreed to H. Res. 321, continuing until January 3, 1942, the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities, by a vote of 344 to 21. (From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

January 26, 1940

U.S.-JAPANESE TRADE COMMENT

"With trade relations between the United States and Japan going on a day-to-day basis, the Japanese government has issued a statement expressing hope that these relations would soon be restored to a normal treaty basis," reports Hugh Byas in a Tokyo report to the New York Times. "The statement interpreted the action of the United States in abrogating the 1911 trade accord as a measure 'intended to be of service in a solution of various questions arising in connection with the China affair.'..."

A Washington report in the Times says trade relations between Japan and the United States for the present are to continue on a most-favored-nation basis and to be governed by domestic and international law.

According to a United Press report, a memorandum prepared by Commerce experts and released yesterday by Secretary Hopkins showed that Japan's dependence on the United States, not only as a consumer of Japanese goods, but as a supplier of essential materials, has been "greatly intensified" by the European war. By last October Japan's markets in Germany had been virtually wiped out, while shipments to France had declined by 81.6 percent.

TRADE PACT TESTIMONY

The master of the National Grange told Congressmen yesterday that the reciprocal trade program had hurt agriculture, although previously the president of the American Farm Bureau had asserted the program had benefited the farmers. L. J. Taber, master of the Grange, warned the House Ways and Means Committee that if the act is extended for three more years it will necessitate another billion dollars for farm relief. Edward A. O'Neal, president of the Farm Bureau Federation, declared that the trade pacts had been beneficial to American farmers, encouraging exports of farm products as well as increasing domestic sales as a result of industrial stimulation. (A.P.)

FOOD PRICE WARS OPPOSED

"An appeal to the Department of Agriculture to use its influence in curbing 'uneconomic price wars' afflicting the retail end of the grocery industry will be made shortly by the National Food and Grocery Conference Committee, composed of representatives from all divisions of the food industry, it was announced at Chicago yesterday," says Charles E. Egan in a report to the New York Times. "Concluding a special meeting called to consider the plight of the grocery industry, where price slashing has been rampant for more than two months, members of the group voted to send a committee to Washington when an appointment can be arranged with Secretary Wallace..."

Breeding
Research

The February Farmer's Digest describes the dairy cattle breeding studies at the Beltsville Research Center (in an article condensed from the Ayrshire Digest). "Although subjected to the customary criticisms that are levelled at scientific studies of this type," the article says, "it is doubtful if there is any other research project in the world involving dairy cattle that has been so carefully controlled and that now provides such a wealth of information...Obviously, depending upon proven sires regardless of their ancestry has reduced the amount of attention given to line-breeding or to breeding along definite family lines at Beltsville. Furthermore, according to those in charge, the results to date would indicate that the work has not suffered because of breaking away from the time-honored idea of breeding along family lines. Cattle breeders may well ponder over the fact that the general acceptance of this idea may make some very important changes in some of the so-called fundamental principles of breeding...."

"Governmental investigators believe that the best record that a cow makes under standardized environmental conditions is as good a measure of her inherent ability for producing level as is a continuous lifetime record under herd conditions. They believe that the lifetime record is often a matter of good fortune in escaping injuries and disease for the individual animal and that many animals possessing a splendid inheritance for producing capacity never have an opportunity to produce up to their inherent ability in more than one or two lactation periods because of injuries, sickness or other unfavorable conditions...."

"Beltsville does not believe in 'nicking' in the sense in which the term is usually interpreted by the breeder. They believe that a sire that has proved by the breeding test that he possesses an inheritance that enables him to transmit uniformly high levels of production in one herd, will continue to transmit the genes determining high levels of production in any herd in which he may be used. This they say is proved by the success of the unrelated sires that they have used in the experimental herd, and that it appears to indicate that all great transmitting sires, at least within a breed, possess similar germ plasm, in so far as producing capacity is concerned...."

Cotton
Year Book

The world did not produce nearly so much cotton in the 1938-39 season as in either of the two seasons immediately previous, and it did not consume nearly so much as in the season second previous, according to a review of the 1938-39 season contained in the twelfth Cotton Year Book of the New York Cotton Exchange just issued. However, world production of the staple was larger than in any other earlier season with one single exception, and world consumption was larger than in any other previous season. World consumption was moderately in excess of world production in the season, with the result that the world carryover at the end of the season was moderately smaller than that at the end of the previous season. (Press.)

Chemical, Research leading to better chemical and engineer-
Engineering ing methods in production and utilization of farm prod-
Research ucts and improved living conditions on the farm are
 outlined by Dr. Henry G. Knight, Chief of the Bureau
of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, in his annual report.
During the past year construction was begun on four regional research
laboratories, which are expected to be ready for operation next summer.
Discovery by the Bureau of a method of making high quality white
starch from sweetpotatoes has led to other studies that indicate new
methods and equipment for growing, harvesting and storing.

Wheat investigations have brought new facts on storage and venti-
lation; the development of portable grain driers; safety codes for
fire and explosion prevention in grain-handling plants; demonstration
that aging of wheat kernels results in protein changes and loss of
nutritive value; evidence that ethylene gas aids rapid ripening or
curing of combine-harvested wheat; and reasons for changes produced in
flour by aging, bleaching and by bread "improvers".

Other results of research on commodities used as food include the
discovery that some changes in the apparent quality of eggs that cause
many disagreements between shippers and receivers are due in part to
the handling necessary in candling and to the shaking in transporta-
tion; an improved process of making sugar from sorghum that offers
wider use of a widely distributed crop; and discovery of varietal and
cultural factors that promise to improve yields and lower costs of
growing sugarcane.

Truth in "The law of the land concerning the control of
Advertising false advertising is something of a puzzle," says an
 editorial in the New Republic (January 29). "There
is a Federal Food and Drug Act (1906) and a Federal Food, Drug and
Cosmetic Act (passed about a year ago), but these have nothing to do
with false advertising, as distinguished from adulteration and false
labeling. Taking care of the latter is the work of the Food and Drug
Administration of the Department of Agriculture, and a heroic job it
has done. But the Federal Trade Commission has the task of control-
ling improper copy written at the behest of industries engaged in
interstate commerce, including the food, drug and cosmetic companies....
What we really need is a law that prohibits all falsity in advertising,
not just factual falsity that is 'misleading in a material respect.'
The evil should be attacked at the source by making the publishers,
broadcasting companies and advertising agencies liable for their copy.
The law should compel the disclosure of information necessary for in-
telligent buying. The advertiser should be forced to assume the
burden of affirmatively proving the accuracy of his claims, and upon
failure to do so he should be compelled to publish a complete re-
traction."

Lemon
Storage

Work by Dr. E. M. Harvey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and by the California Fruit Growers Exchange indicates that respiration may be used as an index of the vitality of lemons, says J. R. Macrill of the Exchange, in California Citrograph (February). "In many instances fruit of one lot separated at the washer as treeripe has shown greater vitality than fruit separated as silver or light green from another lot. It is hoped that Doctor Harvey's method now being closely studied by the research department of the Exchange may be reduced to practice in the packing house to differentiate between fruit of good and poor keeping quality. With such a practical method it would be possible to predetermine the storage life of lemons, to say approximately the time that they could be satisfactorily kept in storage...."

Conservation
Districts

More than a million farms are now included in soil conservation districts organized during the past two years by farmers, H. H. Bennett, Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, has reported. An additional 400,000 farms are included in districts now in process of organization. On the basis of year-end reports, 217 districts covering nearly 120 million acres have been formed in 26 States. More than 100 additional districts are in various stages of formation. "The phenomenal growth of soil conservation districts is evidence that farmers and ranchers of the United States are beginning to recognize and act upon the acute need for soil and water conservation," Bennett declared. "Within a few years, soil conservation district laws have been enacted in 36 States, and farmers are seizing the opportunity this legislation gives them to do something about stopping the ruinous waste of soil which is now going on faster than most of us realize."

Refinancing
of Loans

The mortgage-debt payments of about 75,000 farmers with Land Bank Commissioner loans, most of them in areas which have suffered from drought over the past few years, have been lightened by reamortization to give borrowers longer periods in which to pay out, it was announced recently by the Farm Credit Administration. New cases are being handled at the rate of about 3,500 a week. Most of the Commissioner loans were made during the 1933-34 period of emergency refinancing on a 13-year basis, and have now been reamortized for terms of 20 years or more. The Commissioner loans are made on first and second mortgage security. In addition, a number of first mortgage Federal land bank loans also have been reamortized for longer terms.

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

January 29, 1940

APPROPRIATION FOR U.S.D.A.

"Reports that congressional budget makers are preparing to continue the economy drive by trimming administration estimates for agriculture, the next big supply bill to be brought out this week, were current as both Houses made ready to go forward with appropriation work," says J. A. O'Leary in the Washington Star. "In some quarters it was believed approximately \$75,000,000 may be taken from budget estimates. If such a cut materializes when the agriculture bill is ready to go to the House Tuesday, it would bring up to \$200,000,000 the total by which budget figures have been tentatively reduced on the first five supply bills considered up to now...It is not known where reductions are being considered in the agriculture bill. It was reliably reported, however, the House measure will follow the lead of the Budget Bureau by making no provision for parity price payments to farmers..."

LOW-RENT HOUSING

Expansion of the national housing program to rural workers and families whose income is a bracket just above that of the people for whom subsidized housing is designed has been advocated before the National Public Housing Conference. For the middle-income class the conference has proposed an amendment to the housing act to make loans available without subsidies to local housing authorities for projects to be leased to cooperative societies for the amortization period on a self-liquidating basis. (New York Times.)

WHEAT PRICE SITUATION

Domestic wheat prices during the next few months will depend largely upon the volume of overseas sales of Canadian wheat, general business conditions and the manner in which farmers dispose of wheat now under loan, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. The market apparently will be able to absorb a reasonable volume of sales without much price effect if the wheat loans are liquidated in an orderly manner, but a large volume of sales in any short period might have a temporarily depressing effect on prices. Wheat prices in the United States continue high in comparison with prices in other countries. Prices of hard winter wheat at Gulf ports are between 28 and 30 cents above export prices, while prices of domestic spring wheat at Buffalo are only about 8 cents lower than approximately the same quality of Canadian wheat, c.i.f., duty paid, at Buffalo.

Cooperative Cold Storage Twelve cooperative farm cold storage plants costing from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and built and financed largely by WPA, are now being operated in Mississippi. Title to the plants is invested in Mississippi State College, which leases them to county cooperatives, but the extension service and county agents largely supervise their operation. The cooperative plants cure farmers' meat and hold it for them until desired for their own use or for sale. Some 2,000,000 pounds of meat have been handled since the first of the plants began operating late in 1937. Besides turning out cured hams, bacon, salt pork, fresh sausage, smoked sausage and pickled pigs' feet, beef and other meat products, the plants provide storage facilities for eggs, butter, fresh produce, seeds and fruits. Thus, farmers can hold their products and take advantage of market changes and seasonal fluctuations in prices. (Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife, February.)

Trends in Economics A general rise in industrial production, an increase in currency circulation and recovery in the market values of industrial shares are the most important world economic trends, it is declared in the January issue of the bulletin of the League of Nations. The United States still leads the world in industrial production. Owing to the war, only Canada among the present belligerents sent in figures that showed an increase over 1938. Among neutrals that have made statistics available for last November, all show increases in comparison with November, 1938. Sweden, which shows a 9 percent increase in production, heads the neutral list. Raw materials and food prices show a marked reaction, the bulletin says. (New York Times.)

Two-State Truck Pact A reciprocal agreement between New York and Michigan on interstate trucking has been announced by Carroll E. Mealey, New York Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Under the agreement, Michigan waives mileage tax fees and Public Service Commission registration plates previously required of New York operators. The Michigan requirements of mileage tax and registration plates, which are abrogated in the new agreement, operated, in effect, as a trade barrier. (Press.)

Botanic Garden The herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden has grown to 1,963,238 specimens, an increase of 30,000 over the previous year, Dr. W. J. Robbins, director said recently in his annual report. The library has added nearly 1,000 books. The 40,000 tulips and narcissuses, planted in the fall for spring display, were the gift of Dutch bulb growers. Additions have been made to the arboretum, the collection of trees and shrubs now numbering 2,025 different kinds. (New York Times.)

Wax Picking of Poultry

During the past year striking improvements have been made in the wax method of picking poultry, with the development of the new all-petroleum waxes, says Harry E. Drews in an article in Poultry Tribune (February). "They have made possible the development of small waxing equipment, suitable for the small dresser or the large flockowner. These new waxing and semi-scalding units, produced by several manufacturers, are essentially well insulated, electrically heated, thermostatically controlled containers with accessories that make it possible for the small operator, with investments not far over \$100, to duplicate the workmanship and savings of the large machine operator. Units heated with gasoline are also produced for those who do not have electricity available...."

Study Fowl Paralysis

Poultry Tribune (February) contains the article, "U.S.D.A. Begins Study of Paralysis," by J. Holmes Martin, director of the Department's poultry laboratory in East Lansing, Michigan. "A technical committee of poultry nutrition workers, geneticists and poultry pathologists was appointed to draw up a definite project for research to be carried on at the laboratory," he says in part. "Because of the importance of the fowl paralysis problem, it was recommended by the technical committee that the program to be attacked immediately upon the completion of the laboratory be a study of and the development of control measures for fowl paralysis.... During 1939, a very capable staff of scientific workers and poultrymen and caretakers for the plant was assembled, and the research work is now well under way.... It is, of course, too early to draw any conclusions of scientific value, but it may be stated that there already has been observed an appreciable difference in the strains as well as in families in the strain with regard to susceptibility and resistance to paralysis. This would indicate that the stock which is now at the laboratory can be used as a basis for breeding highly resistant and highly susceptible families and strains. The highly susceptible strains will be of great value for future research while the highly resistant strains should be of much practical value, since the breeding program through which they will be established will point the way which poultry breeders could follow in establishing resistance in their own strains."

Thiamin for Plants

Daffodils with blossoms as large as salad plates. Red tea roses with five-inch buds. Extremely dilute solutions of Vitamin B₁ (thiamin) in water used on growing plants produced such effects in researches at the California Institute of Technology. In addition to making plants grow vigorously and producing abnormally large flowers, this vitamin allows the transplanting of flowers and trees at any season. Concentrations as low as one part in 100,000,000 prevent "root shock" when flowers, shrubs, and trees are transplanted. (Science News Letter, January 27.)

Senate Passed H. R. 7805, emergency defense appropriation
Jan. 25 bill. Agreed without debate to an amendment making
\$11,000,000 of the 1940 parity-payments appropriation
available for expenditure in the same manner as the 1939 appropriation.
Agreed to an amendment striking out the provision for purchase of a
tract of sugar land in Puerto Rico for military purposes.

Messrs. Wheeler, Thomas of Okla., Schwellenbach, Norris and McNary
were appointed Senate conferees on S. 1955, to authorize the Secretary
of Agriculture to delegate certain regulatory functions. As this bill
passed the Senate it provided for a Second Assistant Secretary of Agri-
culture, but the House struck out this provision.

Agreed to S. Res. 143, providing for an investigation with regard
to "(1) Why the Department of Agriculture failed to keep the agreement...
providing for the necessary sterilization of the bulbs imported...(3)
Why, after the Department...caused to be introduced the bills S. 1364,
and H. R. 4036, an adverse report on such legislation was later submit-
ted by the Department..."

Committee on Banking and Currency reported with amendments S. 3069,
to provide for certain loans to Finland by the R. F. C. (S. Rept. 1166).

Adjourned until Monday, January 29.

House Passed H. R. 8068, Treasury-Post Office Appropriation
Jan. 25 bill.

Passed H. R. 8067, urgent deficiency appropriation
bill. Messrs. Mahon, Woodrum, and Taber mentioned the cotton-export-
subsidy item, which was rejected in committee.

Received from the Secretary of War a report on the reexamination of
Indian Creek in Iowa, for flood control (H. Doc. 577); to Com. on Flood
Control.

Adjourned until Monday, January 29.

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

U. S. Forest Nearly 1,000,000 acres of tree plantations have
Planting been established on national forests and purchase units
by the Forest Service up to January 1. In 1939,
131,707 acres were planted with 125,951,000 trees, bringing the total
to 946,574 acres. Much of the planting was done by CCC workers. On
all the national forests the Forest Service estimates that about
3,500,000 acres need immediate planting to bring the land into produc-
tion for timber, to protect water sheds and yield other returns to the
public. The species most commonly planted last year were nine varieties
of pine, white spruce, Douglas fir, cedar, Engelman spruce, Norway,
Sitka and blue spruce and smaller quantities of hard woods such as black
locust, oaks, black cherry, yellow poplar and cucumber magnolia. (Press.)
